



SALT LAKE CITY



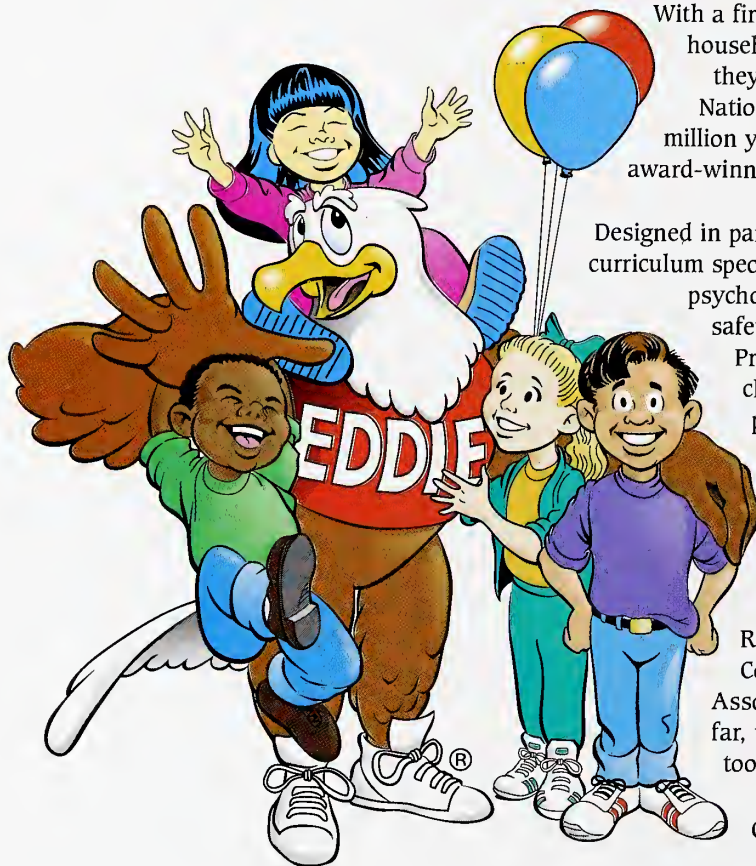
**78th National
Convention of**

THE AMERICAN LEGION

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

Official Program & Annual Report

"If You See A Gun: Stop! Don't Touch, Leave The Area, Tell An Adult."



With a firearm present in about half of all American households, we must teach kids what to do should they find a gun. **GUNS ARE NOT TOYS.** That's why the National Rifle Association has reached over seven million young children and their parents with the award-winning Eddie Eagle® Gun Safety Program.

Designed in partnership with teachers, school administrators, curriculum specialists, urban housing safety officials, clinical psychologists and National Rifle Association firearm safety experts, the award-winning Eddie Eagle Program teaches preschool through sixth grade children a life-saving message through a fast-paced animated video and fun-filled activity books tailored for each age group. The program, available in three levels, utilizes modern tactile/kinesthetic, visual, and auditory learning methods and is adaptable from a five-day plan to a short, one-day lesson.

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- STUDENT REWARDS
- PARENT LETTER
- MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

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"We've taught the Eddie Eagle Program to over 10,000 young students. Coincidentally, on a recent class outing, several second, third and fourth graders stumbled across a discarded handgun. Instead of touching it, they all ran to tell the teacher what they'd found. They said they remembered Eddie's safety rules! Every school should teach the Eddie Eagle Program."

-CHIEF MICHAEL DORN, CAMPUS POLICE DEPARTMENT, BIBB COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, MACON, GEORGIA.

For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

*To uphold and defend the Constitution
of the United States of America;
to maintain law and order;
to foster and perpetuate a one-hundred
percent Americanism;
to preserve the memories and incidents
of our associations in the Great Wars;
to inculcate a sense of individual obligation
to the community, state and nation;
to combat the autocracy of both the
classes and the masses;
to make right the master of might;
to promote peace and good will on earth;
to safeguard and transmit to posterity the
principles of justice, freedom and democracy;
to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship
by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.*

78th National Convention

August 30–September 5, 1996 • Salt Lake City, Utah

Welcome



**The American Legion
78th National Convention**



**Sons of the
American Legion
25th National Convention**



**American Legion
Auxiliary
76th National Convention**



**La Boutique
Des Huit Chapeaux
Et Quarante Femmes
75th Marche Nationale**

**“I always
considered
statesmen to be
more expendable
than soldiers.”**

Harry Truman

Union Federal Savings Bank Trust Services wishes the
American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary the
best of conventions and a great year.

George A. Buskirk, Jr.
Senior Vice President and Trust Services
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The American Legion 78th National Convention

August 30 – September 5, 1996 • Salt Lake City, Utah



Welcome

Legionnaires will win in all endeavors as they remain the heart of "America's Team."

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COVER: Colorful flowers surround the State House, which provides a home for the Utah Department Headquarters. Photo by A. Jenny/Unicorn Stock Photos.

THIS PAGE: The Wasatch Mountains offer majestic scenery for visitors and residents of Salt Lake City. Photo by John E. Simon

Commander's Message

Welcome to Salt Lake City, site of The American Legion's 78th National Convention

AS I REFLECT on my term as National Commander, I wonder if this is what it's like to be a baseball manager who is turning over his dugout duties to work elsewhere for the best team in the game.

We are gathered in Salt Lake City for the 78th National Convention to reaffirm our commitment to winning each of the contests on our schedule for the coming year.

Leading a roster of 3 million "players" is a fulfilling thrill and challenge. Like Tommy Lasorda as well as "Sparky" Anderson, I leave my field-leadership position awed and humbled at the respect and appreciation from a winning team...my team...your team...our team.

Remember the old saying: It doesn't matter whether you win or lose; it's how you play the game? Frankly, the person who believes that doesn't play a game that matters.

Legionnaires are engaged in a contest that matters to 26 million veterans and their families who count on us to fight for benefits they deserve. Legionnaires are engaged in a contest that matters to youngsters who benefit from our Children & Youth initiatives. Legionnaires are engaged in a contest that matters to right-thinking Americans who believe the U.S. Flag must hold a special place in our society.

I'm not knocking the defending World Series champions, the Atlanta Braves, but I strongly believe The American Legion is "America's Team."

Legionnaires are engaged in a series of public policy struggles which is part contest and part war. We have to win to keep our nation strong and our government responsive to its people—a must-win situation.

The right men and women are on "America's Team" because we know what real war is like. So we certainly are not going to shrink from any political battles.

It is no secret The American Legion was disappointed when Americans were denied the opportunity to provide protection for "Old Glory" from acts of physical desecration.



DANIEL A. LUDWIG
National Commander

The American Legion will be back when the next Congress convenes. We will be there representing the majority of Americans, veterans and non-veterans alike, who believe our Flag deserves protection by the U.S. Constitution.

We'll also be on Capitol Hill with a bold measure to improve the openness, the level of care, and the financial stability of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical System: "The GI Bill of Health." The VA health care system was created more than 50 years ago to meet the needs that existed then. Its rules and resources haven't kept pace with the changing needs of the aging veterans' population. "The GI Bill of Health" is designed to ensure that the VA can change to meet the challenges of the next century.

What Legionnaires do for the health of American veterans is a vital cornerstone of The American Legion agenda.

We relish a major victory in the Agent Orange contest: expansion of the number of illnesses under which disability payments may

be made and proposed legislation to include spina bifida among those conditions.

On the other hand, Legionnaires must step up to the plate for Gulf War veterans whose combat-related illnesses are still dismissed by our government as products of their imaginations. We hung tough for many years on the Agent Orange contest and we scored a victory. Don't count us out on Gulf War Syndrome. The American Legion will chalk up a win in that contest, too.

Some of our teammates are missing, a circumstance which has not left our memory. We will never forget our POW/MIA comrades. Their families and this nation must know that The American Legion will continue to push for a full accounting and a hero's welcome for all of the brave Americans who fought for their country.

The American Legion Family Support Network, reactivated to aid military families during the Bosnia deployment, is effective because Legionnaires are willing to help service members and their dependents. From bridging communication gaps between troops and their loved ones to offering financial assistance to families in need, the FSN is relieving American service members of problems at home so they can concentrate on carrying out their duties in the former Yugoslavia.

The American Legion has invited our women and men serving in Bosnia to join "America's Team." Our nearly 15,000 posts are offering free one-year Legion memberships to Bosnia service members from their communities. We're doing that because we understand how a connection to home can make us feel better about performing inherently dangerous duties while enduring separation from loved ones.

As we welcome these troops to The American Legion, let us also strive to increase our membership through tapping the domestic pool of wartime veterans. Our goal is to swell our ranks to 4 million members by 2000. We have our work cut out for us in this arena, but we will prevail.

I'm proud of each member of The American Legion who has taken the theme "Still Serving America" to heart and, in so doing, contributed to the success of our programs.

I am honored to have had your support during my term as National Commander. I am proud to remain a member of The American Legion team—"America's Team."

For God and country, we will continue our winning ways on the home fields of our post communities and against formidable yet misguided opponents on Capitol Hill.

We will win—we must win—for the contests in which we are engaged matter greatly to the future of America. ■

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THE CONVENTION IN *Salt Lake City*

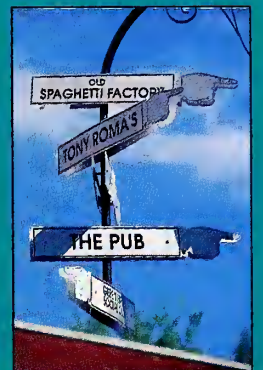
SALTY MARINA—Cruising sailboats rest in their slips at Great Salt Lake State Park, just 15 minutes west of the city.

This page, clockwise from left: Legionnaires can shop at the many diverse stores of Trolley Square, a renovated former transportation center; one of the towers of Assembly Hall in Temple Square reflects from a downtown building near the Salt Palace Convention Center; strong family values are represented by numerous sculptures throughout the city, including this one of a mother and child in front of the L.D.S. Church Office Building.



Facing page, clockwise from top right: The American Legion Department of Utah headquarters, housed in the state capitol, overlooks the six-spired Temple; navigating the streets of Salt Lake City is a breeze for visitors, thanks to simple street layouts; visitors to Council Hall may obtain travel, tourism and recreation information from the Utah Travel Council; rail transportation remains vital to local industries; Legionnaires can remember the past while viewing memorabilia at Fort Douglas Military Museum; shopping isn't limited to downtown, as stores at Great Salt Lake offer myriad souvenir and gift options; and The American Legion parade will conclude at the Delta Center, home of the NBA Western Conference finalist Utah Jazz.







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For more information, contact us on the Internet at: <http://www.ford.com>

Registration & Information

A Registration and Information Booth will be operated in Salt Lake City for the convenience of Conventioneers. The booth can be found in the Salt Palace Convention Center Lobby near West Temple Street. The booth will be staffed from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 29 through Tuesday, Sept. 3.

Those who have not previously registered and want to attend the General Convention sessions may register at the booth. All persons except children under age 12 must wear the official Convention Badge or other approved credentials to attend the General Convention Sessions.

REGISTRATION & INFORMATION BOOTH

LOCATION

Salt Palace Convention Center lobby

HOURS

9am-5pm

Thursday, Aug. 29 through Tuesday, Sept. 3

Thank You

The American Legion wishes to express its thanks and appreciation to the following companies and organizations which have contributed substantially to the success of the 78th Annual National Convention:

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Long Term Care Underwritten by: American Travelers

Plan availability may vary by state.

Welcome Letter From The President



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 12, 1996

Warmest greetings to the members of The American Legion as you gather in Salt Lake City for your seventy-eighth annual national convention.

America owes its freedom and security to the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces. Our country is forever indebted to these patriots, and we have a solemn obligation to ensure that they receive the assistance and benefits to which their sacrifices have entitled them.

The American Legion has set a standard for compassionate leadership in programs that benefit our nation's veterans, helping them to truly realize the American Dream. By pursuing the ideals of service, charity, and patriotism, your organization stands as a beacon of hope and renewal for the brave men and women who have worn our nation's uniform in wartime and in peace. On behalf of all Americans, I salute the members of The American Legion for your invaluable contributions to the well-being of veterans across the nation and for helping us to keep faith with those who have risked -- and sometimes lost -- their lives in defense of our liberty.

Best wishes for a memorable convention and every future success.

Bill Clinton

Tradition

It's More Than Sentiment

That's why estate planning is important to every family. It is never too soon to have a plan in place to protect your assets, to care for those dear to you, and to keep promises you have made.

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everything, what will
happen in the future
depends on what
you do now.*

At NBD, we have generations of experience developing estate plans and managing assets for continued growth. Call your nearest NBD office

today to learn how we can help you ensure your family's tradition with an NBD estate plan or trust.

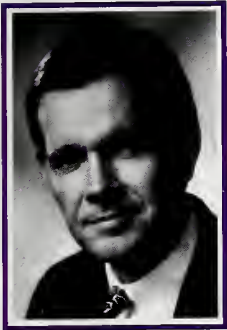
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F O R A L L T H E S E A S O N S O F Y O U R L I F E

Welcome

GOVERNOR OF UTAH



As Governor of the great state of Utah, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 78th annual American Legion National Convention. I am pleased that Utah has been selected as the site of this prestigious event.

This is an important year for Utah; it is the year we celebrate 100 years of statehood. As citizens of Utah, we are delighted to have

you visit our state at this time.

Our Centennial is a celebration of the enduring legacy of Utah's people and cultures, both old and new. It is a celebration of our landscape—everything from red rock canyons and desert valleys, to the world-class ski slopes that will challenge athletes during Utah's 2002

Olympic Winter Games.

Our Centennial is a celebration of Utah's excellence, a quality which is shared by Legionnaires. Over the decades, Legionnaires have shown firm commitment to protecting our fellow citizens and country. I applaud your efforts to keep our communities strong through the many civic programs you have established. On behalf of the state of Utah, I thank you for your labors.

Best wishes for a successful convention. I hope you enjoy your visit to Utah. Please come back again soon and discover more of Utah's treasures.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL O. LEAVITT

MAYOR OF SALT LAKE CITY



On behalf of the citizens of Salt Lake City, it is my pleasure to extend a warm welcome to The American Legion's 78th annual National Convention. We are pleased that you have chosen our beautiful capital city to host your prestigious event.

Your organization is to be commended for its commitment and ongoing efforts to keep this state and country strong through the many civic programs that you have initiated.

We hope that you have an opportunity to get to know our city. From Temple Square to our magnificent mountain scenery to the friendliness of our people, we are sure your visit will be enjoyable and memorable.

Again, welcome to Salt Lake City. Best wishes for a successful convention, and good luck in all of your future endeavors.

Sincerely,

DEEDEE CORRADINI

UTAH DEPARTMENT COMMANDER



It is my great privilege to welcome the American Legion family to the great state of Utah, and our capital city of Salt Lake City. We had our last American Legion National Convention at Salt Lake City in 1984. When I have had the opportunity to meet with Legionnaires since then I have received many comments about that convention. The comment I received the most was, "When are you going to have another National Convention in Salt Lake City?" We are proud to have the opportunity to welcome Legionnaires back in 1996.

In Salt Lake City we have a brand-new Convention Center. From all reports the center is one of the best in

the world. The American Legion is one of the first groups to use this facility for a major convention. With this new facility and the commitment of our members, we anticipate having the best convention ever.

All members of the Department of Utah want everyone to have a successful convention and wonderful stay here in Utah. We are here to assist you in any way possible.

For God and Country,

DALE BROCKBANK

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Programs and Agendas

**78th Annual
National Convention
of The American Legion**

*Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah
August 30–September 5, 1996*

PHOTO BY JOHN E. SIMON

CONGRATULATIONS!

Legion Members

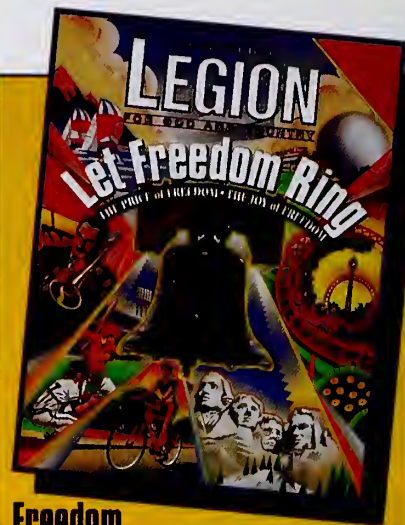
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SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

10:30AM PRELUDE

WELCOME

James C. McKee (UT)
Past National Chaplain
The American Legion

PARADE OF FLAGS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MUSICAL SELECTION

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

INVOCATION

Jeffrey D. Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain
Sons of The American Legion

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds (TX)
National Chaplain
The American Legion

MUSICAL SELECTION

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Shirley F. Slaugh (UT)
Department Chaplain of Utah
The American Legion

MEMORIAL PRAYER

Vivian Taylor (RI)
National Chaplain
American Legion Auxiliary

MUSICAL SELECTION

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Steven E. Wright (UT)
Past Department Chaplain of Utah
The American Legion

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

President Gordon B. Hinckley
Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-Day Saints

MUSICAL SELECTION

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

MEMORIAL MESSAGE

Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds (TX)
National Chaplain
The American Legion

MUSICAL SELECTION

Mormon Tabernacle Choir

PLACING OF MEMORIAL WREATHS

Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander
Robert W. Spanogle (MI)
National Adjutant
The American Legion

Syble D. Deshotel (LA)

National President
Peggy Sappenfield (IN)
National Secretary
American Legion Auxiliary

John T. Dietz (KY)

National Commander
Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant
Sons of The American Legion

Elizabeth B. Lori (NJ)

Le Chapeau National

Helen Moore (IN)

La Secretaire-Cassiere National
Eight & Forty

MOMENT OF MEDITATION

TAPS

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

BENEDICTION

Marva Davis (UT)
Department Chaplain of Utah
American Legion Auxiliary

POSTLUDE

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recording devices is not
allowed in the Tabernacle.
Still cameras, however,
are permissible.

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The American Legion Dispatch

We're on the front line for veterans and their families.

The **Dispatch** is one of the best avenues of information about veterans issues and how the Legion is fighting the fight for you—the veteran.

The semi-monthly publication keeps you informed on National Security/Foreign Relations, Economic and Legislative issues, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. The Dispatch keeps you abreast of such issues as the GI Bill of Health, the flag-protection campaign and focuses on vital programs, including American Legion Baseball, Children & Youth activities and both new and expanding membership services for The American Legion.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Parade

PARADE MARSHALS



HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL
William M. Detweiler (LA)
Past National Commander
American Legion 1994-95



PARADE CHAIRMAN
J. Wayne Spence

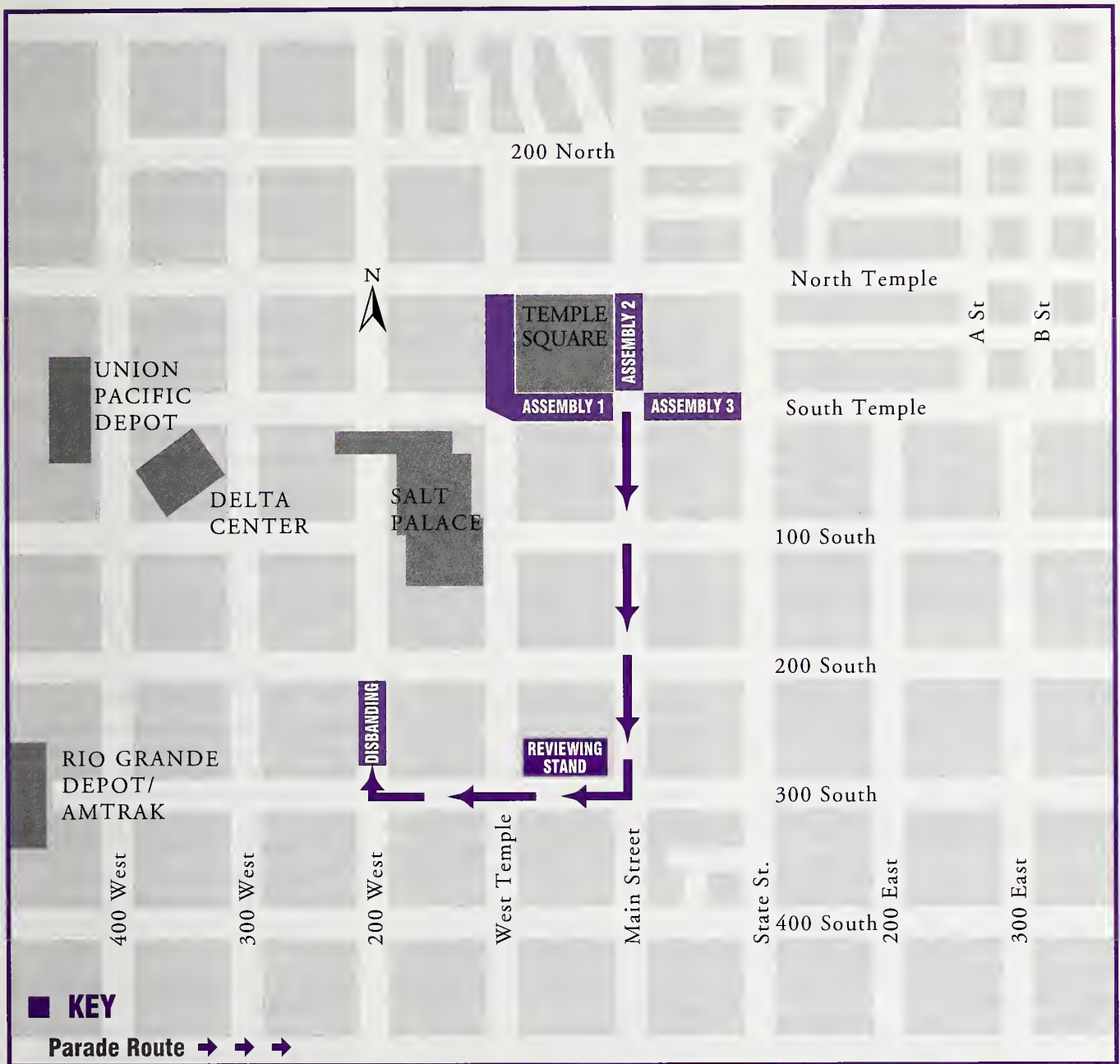
GRAND MARSHAL
Maj. Gen. Richard F. Reeder, USA
Commander, 96th Regional
Support Command

DEPUTY GRAND MARSHALS
Brig. Gen. D. Max Ewing, USA
Asst. Adjutant of Utah

Rear Adm. Richard D. West, USN
Deputy Director, Ballistic Missile
Defense Organization

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
COORDINATOR
LTC George Becker
PAO, Utah National Guard

Parade



PARADE INFORMATION

■ **ALL INFORMATION** about the parade contained herein is subject to change. Please check in at the Registration & Information booth if you have any questions about this information.

■ **AUGUST 31, 1996**
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

■ **START TIME: 4 PM**

■ **FORMATION AREA**
Escort Division
South Temple and Main Street
Divisions I through VII
See Individual Divisions

■ ROUTE

Commencing at South Temple and Main Street, proceed South on Main Street to 300 South; West on 300 South to 200 West to disbanding area on 200 West between 300 and 200 South.

■ DISBANDING AREA

On 200 West between 300 South and 200 South; leave disbanding area via 100 South or 200 South heading West.

■ REVIEWING STAND

On the North side of 300 South in front of building 12/14, adjacent to the American Towers building.

Parade

PARADE RULES

The official Parade of the 78th National Convention of The American Legion will be governed by instructions contained herein together with the Organization and March Timetable and Assembly and Disbanding Area Map which are made a part hereof.

■ **TIME** All times in these orders are Mountain Time.

A. The leading element of the Parade will move from the "Initial Point" (South Temple and Main Street) promptly at 4PM, Saturday, August 31, regardless of weather.

B. The time and place of assembly for each Department or element of the Parade will be shown in detail on the Organization and March Timetable, a copy of which has been sent to each Department Parade Chairman. A Meeting of all Department Parade Chairmen will be held at 1 pm, Friday, Aug. 30, in Room 150G of the Salt Palace Convention Center.

C. A Parade Official will direct Departments and elements of the Parade to their assigned assembly area. He will advise all bus drivers of the route to follow to the disbanding area.

D. Because of the nature of the assembly area accurate logistics are essential. **PROMPTNESS IN ARRIVAL AT THE ASSEMBLY AREA IS MANDATORY.**

■ **ROUTE** Commencing at South Temple and Main Street; proceed South on Main Street to 300 South; West on 300 South to 200 West to disbanding area on 200 West between 300 South and 200 South.

■ ASSEMBLY AREA

A. Instructions for each Department will be furnished by the Parade Committee at the meeting of the Department Parade Chairmen on Friday, August 30, 1996.

B. Float assembly area will be with the respective Department owning the float.

■ ORGANIZATION

A. All elements have been assigned to Divisions, each under the direction of the Parade Officials. The composition of these Divisions, Order of March and time and place of assembly is shown on the Organization and March Timetables and Assembly and Disbanding Area Map supplied to the Department Parade Chairmen.

B. All Department of Defense Units will be governed by applicable regulations.

C. Each Department Commander or

appointed Parade representative will be responsible for the Order of March and promptness of arrival at the assembly area of all units of his Department. All units will conform to the following distribution and formation:

1. All American Flags, the Department and Post Colors of each Department and the Department and Unit Colors of each Department of the Auxiliary will be massed at the head of each Department Delegation in that order.

2. American Legion Units within Departments will march in formation eight abreast, one and one-half yards between ranks.

3. **BANDS AND DRUM CORPS:** As directed by Drum Majors, but not to exceed eight abreast.

4. Authorized floats and automobiles in single column. No unauthorized floats or automobiles will be allowed to participate.

5. **ABSOLUTELY NO MANEUVERS EXCEPT FOR A FORWARD MOVEMENT.** Marching units, bands, color guards and drill teams must abide by this.

D. DISTANCES

1. Between Divisions—30 yards

2. Between Departments—20 yards

3. Between elements of a Department—10 yards

■ **DISBANDING AREA** West of Salt Palace Convention Center on 200 West; leave disbanding area via 100 South heading West.

■ **OFFICIAL REVIEWING STAND** The official Reviewing Stand will be located on the North side of 300 South in front of 12/14 building adjacent to the American Towers building.

Elements will render a salute to the National Commander while passing the Reviewing Stand (eyes right).

■ ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE AND CONDUCT OF PARTICIPANTS

A. Pursuant to resolution adopted at a meeting of the National Convention Commission at Miami Beach on March 12, 1970, there will be no participation of any vehicles, equipment or items or wearing apparel of the 40 et 8. This regulation will be enforced by the Parade Committee of the 1996 Convention Corporation.

B. With exception of police, military and naval escort, and distinguished guests, eligibility to participate in the Parade is

limited to the members of The American Legion and the uniform bodies of the American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion subject to restriction of the following activities which shall be prohibited in the line of march:

1. The drinking of or simulated drinking of intoxicants.

2. Participants under the influence of intoxicants.

3. Use of water pistols and electric shocking devices.

4. Female impersonators.

5. Firecrackers and any other explosives.

6. Any presentation or representation either immoral or in bad taste.

7. Distribution of souvenirs, promotional or advertising materials, either from floats or by marching units.

C. Violators of any of the above rules will be dismissed from the Parade immediately.

■ **FIRST AID STATIONS** The locations of the five First Aid Stations are:

Station 1—On East side of West Temple next to Temple Square at the corner of South Temple and West Temple.

Station 2—Just South of the 100 South and Main Street intersection on the West side of Main Street in front of the Zion's 1st National Bank parking lot.

Station 3—On West side of Main Street on the sidewalk just North of Sam Weller's Zion Bookstore.

Station 4—Immediately West of the reviewing stand on the North side of 300 South.

Station 5—On West side of 200 West on the sidewalk.

There will also be mobile EMTs and an ambulance service available if needed.

■ **PARKING OF CHARTERED OR POST BUSES** Buses will unload at the assigned area. After dropping off parade marchers, buses will proceed East on North Temple to State Street and exit the city. If a bus needs to go to the disbanding area, proceed East on North Temple to State Street; South on State Street to 400 South; West on 400 South to 200 West; North on 200 West to disbanding area. Buses then exit the disbanding area using 100 South or 200 South heading West. Parade officials will direct marchers to their buses. **PERSONAL BELONGINGS AND ALL EQUIPMENT MUST BE REMOVED FROM THE BUSES WHEN UNLOADING AT THE ASSEMBLY AREA.**

Parade

MARCHING ORDER

■ MASSING OF THE FLAGS

Assemble at South Temple and Main Street facing West on South Temple (Assembly Area 3) at 3:15PM. Departure at 4PM.

■ ESCORT DIVISION

Assemble on North side of South Temple at the corner of South Temple and Main Street in front of Mervyn's department store facing East (Assembly Area 1) at 3:30PM. Departure at 4:15PM.

A. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department Sheriff Aaron D. Kennard

B. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department Motorcycle Squad

C. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department HUMMVs

D. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department 1927 Studebaker

E. Salt Lake County Sheriff's Department "APC"

F. GRAND MARSHAL

G. HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

William M. Detweiler (LA)
Past National Commander

H. DEPUTY GRAND MARSHALS

I. JOINT SERVICES COLOR GUARD

J. George Wahlen, Congressional Medal of Honor

K. Utah Military Vehicle Club

■ DIVISION I

Assemble West side of Main Street at South Temple facing South (Assembly Area 2) at 3:45PM.

1. The Band of The Tonawandas Legion Band, NY Post #264, 1995 National Champions
2. Speedway Post 500 Honor Guard
Speedway, IN
3. National Commander
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
4. National Officers
5. Pure Heaven Color Guard Unit #7
6. National President Syble Deshotel
7. National Vice President
8. National Auxiliary Officers
9. Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady, Chairman of the Board, CFA and CMH recipient
10. Junior Auxiliary
11. Past National Commanders
12. Society of The American Legion Founders
13. The American Legion Youth Award Winners
14. Child Welfare Foundation Elements
15. McGruff Crime Dog
16. Freddie The Fire truck (Robotronics)
17. PC The Patrol Car (Robotronics)
18. Sons of The American Legion
19. Le Chapeau National of the Eight et

Forty

20. Foreign & Outlying Departments
Alaska, Puerto Rico, France, Hawaii,
Philippines, Mexico

ALL COLOR GUARDS WILL MARCH WITH THEIR DEPARTMENTS

■ DIVISION II

Assemble on East side of Main Street at South Temple facing South (Assembly Area 2) at 4:05PM.

21. West Jordan High School Jaguar Marching Band—West Jordan, Utah
22. Delaware Walter L. Fox Post #2 Color Guard
23. Idaho Department Color Guard
24. Arizona Copper Knights Color Guard Post #36
25. New Hampshire Dept. Color Guard Keene Post #4 Color Guard
26. Keene American Legion Band
27. Indiana Post #500 Color Guard
28. Maine
29. Pennsylvania
30. South Dakota
31. Wyoming Department Color Guard

■ DIVISION III

Assemble at South Temple and Main Street facing West on South Temple (Assembly Area 3) at 4:25PM.

32. Kearns High School Cougar Marching Band—Kearns, Utah
33. Iowa
Guthrie Center Post #124 Color Guard
Blairstown Post #170 Color Guard
Shenandoah Post #88 Color Guard
Bondurant Post #396, WWII vehicle
Ottumwa Post 43, 1938 fire engine
Float—Tomb of Unknown Soldier—3rd District
34. Ohio
Post #526 Color Guard
Unit 4526 Color Guard
Unit #183 Color Guard
Squadron #209 Color Guard
35. Virginia
36. North Carolina
37. Oconomowoc, WI American Legion Band
38. Wisconsin
39. Oklahoma
40. Maryland
Post #86 Color Guard
Squadron #77 Color Guard
Blake-Blackston Post #77 Color Guard

■ DIVISION IV

Assemble on North side of South Temple at the corner of South Temple and Main Street facing East (Assembly Area 1) at 4:45PM.

41. Ben Lomond High School Scottish Regiment—Ogden, Utah
42. Colorado
43. Minnesota Anoka Post 107 Color Guard
44. 9th District Band
45. Missouri Apple Core Post 4370 Color Guard
Thoman-Boothe Bagpipers

46. Kansas City American Legion Band

47. West Virginia Dept. Color Guard

48. Nebraska Dept. Color Guard
Dept. vehicles

49. Nevada

50. Massachusetts

51. Waltham Band

52. Alabama

■ DIVISION V

Assemble on West side of Main Street at South Temple facing South (Assembly Area 2) at 5:15PM.

53. West Valley Summer Band
Granger High School—West Valley City, Utah
54. Michigan Algot Johnson Unit #69 Color Guard
55. Montana
56. Kansas
Department Banner
Department Color Guard
Massed Colors
57. Tennessee Dept. Color Guard
58. District of Columbia
59. Kentucky
60. New Jersey Prestige Color Guard
61. Kennedy Jr. High School Marching Band—West Valley, Utah

■ DIVISION VI

Assemble on East side of Main Street at South Temple facing South (Assembly Area 2) at 5:35PM.

62. Illinois Joliet Color Guard
63. New York Department Color Guard
Massing Colors
64. The Band of the Tonawandas
65. Washington
66. North Dakota Department Color Guard
67. Rhode Island
68. Florida
69. Louisiana Department Color Guard
70. Vermont Department Color Guard

■ DIVISION VII

Assemble at South Temple and Main Street facing West on South Temple (Assembly Area 3) at 5:45PM.

71. Bingham High School "Miner Marching Band"—Salt Lake City, Utah
72. Connecticut
73. Texas Harding-Blaine Post #321
Dept. vehicles
74. Float—Texas Longhorn Bull
75. Georgia Post 77 Color Guard
76. Springville High School Marching Band—Springville, Utah
77. Arkansas Flag and Banner Guard
78. Oregon Dept. vehicle
79. South Carolina
80. California Norwalk Post #359 Color Guard
81. New Mexico Department Color Guard
82. Mississippi Dept. Color Guard
83. Utah Dept. Color Guard
84. Civil War Drum and Fife
85. Weapons Carrier Vehicle

Convention Committee Meetings

NOTE: UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED, ALL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AT 9AM IN THE SALT PALACE CONVENTION CENTER.

RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150A, 1st Level Aug. 29-Sept. 1

Screening Committee Meetings

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30

AMERICANISM SCREENING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150C, 1st Level

ECONOMIC SCREENING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 253A, 2nd Level

VA&R SCREENING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250B, 2nd Level

Standing Commissions & Committees

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31

AMERICAN LEGION LIFE INSURANCE

The Red Lion Hotel
Topaz Room, 2nd Level

AMERICANISM

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 251E-F, 2nd Level

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 257, 2nd Level

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 256C, 2nd Level

CONVENTION

The Red Lion Hotel
Executive Board Room, Lobby Level

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255C, 2nd Level

ECONOMIC

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250C, 2nd Level

EMBLEM

The Red Lion Hotel (First Meeting)
Salon I, Lobby Level 8:30AM

FINANCE

The Red Lion Hotel
Canyon II, 2nd Level 8:30AM

FOREIGN RELATIONS JOINT MEETING WITH NATIONAL SECURITY

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 254A-B, 2nd Level

FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255A, 2nd Level 1:30PM

FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES

(Subcommittees will meet immediately following the Joint Session)

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251A, 2nd Level

MEMBERSHIP & POST ACTIVITIES

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251D, 2nd Level

LEGISLATIVE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 256A, 2nd Level

NATIONAL SECURITY JOINT MEETING WITH FOREIGN RELATIONS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 254A-B, 2nd Level

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 254A-B, 2nd Level

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEES

(Immediately following Commission Session)

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250A, 2nd Level

GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255B, 2nd Level

AEROSPACE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250B, 2nd Level

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250D, 2nd Level

LAW AND ORDER

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 252A, 2nd Level

MERCHANT MARINE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room, 252B, 2nd Level

NAVAL AFFAIRS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250E, 2nd Level

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 254C, 2nd Level

THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 253A-B, 2nd Level

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 251B-C, 2nd Level

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

The following Convention Committees will be composed of one delegate from each Department. Initial meetings of Convention Committees will be at the time and place shown below. Subsequent meetings will be at the call of the chairmen. Meetings of Convention Committees normally will be closed to all except committee members.

AMERICANISM

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251F, 2nd Level 8:30AM

AMERICANISM SUBCOMMITTEES

COUNTER-SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 253A, 2nd Level

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251F, 2nd Level

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 253B, 2nd Level

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 257, 2nd Level

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255C, 2nd Level

CREDENTIALS AND INTERNAL AFFAIRS CREDENTIALS AND OTHER INTERNAL MATTERS—SECTIONS I & II

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251A, 2nd Level 8:30AM

MEMBERSHIP—SECTION III

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 251D, 2nd Level 8:30AM

ECONOMIC

(Employment, Veterans Preference and Other Economic Matters)
Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150G, 1st Level

EMBLEM

The Red Lion Hotel (Second Meeting)
Salon I, Lobby Level 8:30AM

FINANCE

The Red Lion Hotel
Canyon II, 2nd Floor

FOREIGN RELATIONS JOINT MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255A, 2nd Level 8:30AM

FOREIGN RELATIONS SUBCOMMITTEES.

(Subcommittees will meet immediately following Joint Session)

LEGISLATION AND RULES

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 254C, 2nd Level

10AM

NATIONAL SECURITY JOINT MEETING

(Includes Aerospace, Defense Civil Preparedness, Law and Order, Merchant Marine, Military Affairs & Naval Affairs)
Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 254A-B, 2nd Level

NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEES

(Immediately following Joint Meeting)

MILITARY AFFAIRS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250A, 2nd Level

GENERAL SECURITY AD HOC

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255B, 2nd Level

AEROSPACE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250B, 2nd Level

DEFENSE CIVIL PREPAREDNESS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250D, 2nd Level

LAW AND ORDER

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 252A, 2nd Level

MERCHANT MARINE

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 252B, 2nd Level

NAVAL AFFAIRS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250E, 2nd Level

POW/MIA UPDATE

MONDAY, SEPT. 2

Salt Palace Convention Center

Rooms 254A-B, 2nd level

GENERAL SECURITY MEETING (ALL COMMITTEES)

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 254A-B, 2nd Level

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

CLAIMS & RATING AND HOSPITALS & MEDICAL SERVICES JOINT MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Rooms 251B-C, 2nd Level

Note: Hospitals & Medical Services will proceed to separate session in Room 251E, 2nd Level and subsequently return to Joint Session following Subcommittee actions on resolutions.

OTHER MEETINGS

PRE-NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150G, 1st Level Sept. 2, 9AM

POST-NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

(Immediately Following
Adjournment of Convention)
Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150G, 1st Level Sept. 5

1996 Reunions and Dinners

TWENTY AND FOUR

Little America Hotel & Towers

Pre-Bivouac Thursday, August 29

Bivouac Friday, August 30

Banquet Friday, August 30
Ballroom A

HISTORIANS' AND FOUNDERS' LUNCHEON & MEETING

Red Lion Hotel

Luncheon Sat., Aug. 31, 11:45AM
Red Lion Ballroom East, 2nd level

ANAVICUS

Army, Navy and Air Force

Veterans in Canada

Red Lion Hotel

Breakfast Meeting Sunday, Sept. 1, 7AM
Grand Ballroom, 2nd level

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF WORLD WAR NURSES REUNION

Red Lion Hotel Mon., Sept. 2, 11AM
Salon III, Lobby level

FODPAL

Red Lion Hotel

Breakfast Meeting Mon., Sept. 2, 7AM
Grand Ballroom, 2nd level

NATIONAL SGT.-AT-ARMS CLUB

Red Lion Hotel

General Meeting Monday, Sept. 2, 6PM
Canyon II, 2nd level

Dinner Monday, Sept. 2, 7:30PM
Topaz Room, 2nd level

NATIONAL AMERICAN LEGION PRESS ASSOCIATION (NALPA)

Breakfast Sunday, Sept. 1, 8AM
(Executive Board members only)

Red Lion Hotel, Salon III, Lobby level

Meeting Sunday, Sept. 1, 3PM
Red Lion Hotel, Topaz Room, 2nd level

Banquet Monday, Sept. 2, 7PM
Red Lion Hotel,
Red Lion Ballroom East, 2nd level

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS' CLUB

Red Lion Hotel

Luncheon Monday, Sept. 2, NOON
Grand Ballroom, 2nd level

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S BANQUET FOR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Salt Palace Convention Center
Tuesday, Sept. 3, 6:30PM
Ballroom, 1st level
100 South West Temple

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Salt Palace Convention Center

States Dinner Wed., Sept. 4, 7:15PM
Ballroom, 1st level
100 South West Temple

EIGHT AND FORTY

Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel

Installation Dinner Sat., Sept. 7, 7PM
Grand Ballroom,
Salons E,F,G,H,I, 1st floor

NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150G, 1st Level Aug. 30, 1PM

CONTESTS REPRESENTATIVES MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 250C, 2nd Level Aug. 30, 2PM

SAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Salt Lake City Marriott
Grand Ballroom, Salons A-E, 1st Level
Aug. 30, 4PM

SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City Marriott
Grand Ballroom, Salons A-E, 1st Level
Aug. 30, 7PM

SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Salt Lake City Marriott
Grand Ballroom, Salons A-E, 1st Level
Aug. 31, 9PM

NATIONAL CONVENTION PARADE

Aug. 31, 4PM

SAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Post-NEC Meeting Sept. 1, 1-2PM
Salt Lake City Marriott
Grand Ballroom, Salons A-E, 1st Level

PATRIOTIC MEMORIAL SERVICE

Mormon Tabernacle on Temple Square
Sept. 1, 10:30AM

NATIONAL CONVENTION SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS MEETING

Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 255A, 2nd Level Sept. 2, 8:30AM



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Continued success to the American Legion *Carl Figoten, President
Ernest Aguilar, C.O.O.*

Standing Rules of the National Convention

The following are the Standing Rules of the National Convention as contained in the "Uniform Code Of Procedure For The Organization Of National Conventions Of The American Legion," authorized under Article V, Section 6, of the National Constitution of The American Legion.

STANDING RULES OF THE NATIONAL CONVENTION

1. Robert's Revised Rules of Order shall be the authority on parliamentary procedure, with the following modifications:
2. A delegate desiring to make a motion or address the Convention shall rise, address the Chair as "Mr. Commander" and state his name and the name of the Department before proceeding.
3. Debate shall be limited to five minutes for each speaker.
4. Debate on any one subject presented to the Convention shall be limited to two hours except under such special rule as the Convention shall adopt prior to debate.
5. But two delegates from any one delegation shall be permitted the floor on any one question. Where disagreement exists within a delegation, one delegate shall be permitted to speak on each side of the question. Upon a division of the question, however, this rule shall be applied separately for each division.
6. The floor shall be permitted but once to any individual delegate on any one question, except by a two-thirds vote of the Convention. Chairmen of Convention Committees may speak as frequently as may be necessary in connection with the reports of their committees. The Presiding Officer shall not entertain any motion which will curtail further debate without affording the Committee Chairman an opportunity for rebuttal.
7. Decisions on Rules of Debate or parliamentary order by the Presiding Officer may be subject to appeal by any two delegates under a Point of Order. Such appeal shall take precedence over any pending questions and shall be decided forthwith. An appeal from the decision of the Chair shall be put to the Convention on the question: "Shall the Chair be sustained?"
8. When the poll of any Department Delegation is demanded by a delegate of such Department, the Convention Secretary shall poll the vote without discussion of the question being voted upon.
9. On the Roll Calls, the delegation Chairman shall poll his delegation on the floor and announce its vote.
10. In the event a delegation secretary is

not an accredited delegate or alternate, he shall be seated with his delegation.

11. Past National Commanders' votes shall be cast with their delegations.
12. Only accredited delegates or their alternates shall participate, directly or indirectly, in a viva voce vote on any subject before the Convention.
13. Department delegations may arrive at a vote in such manner as they choose, but shall announce it in terms of full units and not in terms of a fractional part of a vote. The vote of any delegate absent and not represented by an alternate shall be cast by the majority of the delegates present from his Department.
14. There shall be no unit rule of voting.
15. Voting shall be by acclamation, except when a Roll Call is demanded by the Chairmen of at least three Departments. Election of National Officers shall be by roll call.
16. In the event a Department has not provided the method by which alternates shall be designated to serve in the place of absent delegates, the Chairman of the delegation shall make such designation.
17. Prior to the election of National Officers, the National Commander shall appoint, subject to approval of the Convention, a Judge of Election and such number of tellers as he deems necessary, provided that the total tellers so appointed shall be an odd number. In a contested election each candidate going to the ballot shall be entitled to one teller of his choice.
18. Nominations for National Officers shall be from the floor on Roll Call of the Departments alphabetically arranged. Each Department may present as many candidates as it chooses.
19. Nomination speeches for National Officers shall be limited to five minutes each. Not more than two seconding speeches shall be made for any candidate, and said speeches shall be limited to three minutes.
20. When more than two candidates are nominated for any office, balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority of the votes of the Convention, except in the election of National Vice Commanders.
21. In a contested election for National Vice Commanders, balloting shall continue until (a) majorities and (b) pluralities are established for one or more candidates under the following provisions:
If, on any ballot taken, less than five candidates receive the necessary majority to elect, the candidate or candidates receiving a majority vote shall be declared

elected and a new ballot shall be taken for the remaining number of places to be filled. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the preceding ballot shall be disqualified; except should two candidates remain to fill one place, a new ballot shall be taken.

22. The Convention will nominate and elect a National Commander, and five National Vice Commanders, in this sequence.
23. At the conclusion of balloting on National Vice Commanders, each Department Delegation Chairman shall deliver a written ballot to the tellers. Such ballots shall be in the hands of the tellers before communication is made to the National Commander for announcement of the results.
24. Those recognized by the National Commander shall be entitled to a respectful hearing, and the Chair shall have the authority to clear the gallery or the floor or have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort from the Convention anyone creating a disturbance or interfering with orderly procedure.
25. None of the above rules shall be construed as preventing an alternate delegate from serving on a Convention committee.
26. The consent of two-thirds of the voting strength of the Convention is necessary for suspension of the standing rules of the Convention.
27. Any amendment to any resolution or report originating on the floor shall be presented in writing and transmitted to the Presiding Officer at the time of the introduction of such amendment.
28. Special rules applying to specific issues or order of business shall be written and presented to the Convention by the Legislation and Rules Committee for adoption by majority vote at least one hour before such issue or order is to be considered, unless such rule is agreed to by unanimous consent of the final session.

Special rules shall prevail only when the Convention adopts them.

Any delegate may apply for a special rule to the Legislation and Rules Committee or may appeal to the Convention for such special rule provided the rule be presented in writing, be read once from the platform, and shall lay upon the table at least one hour before the vote thereon is taken.

78th Annual National Convention The American Legion Agenda

■ Salt Palace Convention Center,
Halls A & B,
First Level
Salt Lake City, Utah
Sept. 3-5, 1996

**TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 1996**

8:30AM PRELUDE
Peter Ole, Organist

9AM CALL TO ORDER
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

9AM OPENING PROGRAM
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS
Speedway Post No. 500
Honor Guard
Indianapolis, Indiana

NATIONAL ANTHEM
Gloria McCoy
Desmet, South Dakota

INVOCATION
Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds
(TX)
National Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**PREAMBLE TO THE AMERICAN
LEGION CONSTITUTION**
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

LIGHTING OF PEACE CANDLE
Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds
(TX)
National Chaplain

**POW/MIA EMPTY CHAIR
CEREMONY**
By: Robert S. Turner (GA)
Past National Commander
Chairman, Special POW/MIA
Committee

Curtis O. Twete (ND)
Chairman, Foreign Relations
Commission

NOTE: Times of subsequent sessions
and time of Convention Committee
Reports are subject to change by the
Chair.

CALL FOR CONVENTION
Robert W. Spanogle (MI)
National Adjutant

10AM WELCOME
The Honorable Olene Walker
Lt. Governor of Utah

The Honorable DeeDee
Corradini
Mayor of Salt Lake City

H. Dale Brockbank
1995-96 Department
Commander
The American Legion of Utah

William E. Christoffersen
President
The American Legion
National Convention
Corporation of Utah, Inc.

**RESPONSES TO ADDRESSES OF
WELCOME**
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

10:30AM INTRODUCTION
Mrs. Syble Deshotel (LA)
National President
American Legion Auxiliary

10:35AM ADDRESS
The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senate

**10:55AM SPECIAL REPORT—THE
CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE, INC.**
Maj. Gen. Patrick Brady
Chairman of the Board
The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc.
"Protecting Our Flag—The
Fight Continues"

11:25AM ADDRESS
The Hon. Gerald B. H. Solomon
Chairman, Rules Committee
United States House of
Representatives

**11:45AM PRESENTATION—THE
AMERICAN LEGION
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE
AWARD**
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

To: The Hon. G. V. Montgomery
Ranking Democratic Member
House Veterans Affairs
Committee
United States House of
Representatives

12:15PM CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

To: Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds
(TX)
National Chaplain

**12:20PM NATIONAL COMMANDER'S
REPORT TO CONVENTION**
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

**12:35PM REPORT OF CREDENTIALS &
INTERNAL AFFAIRS—SECTION I**

**12:45PM REPORT OF LEGISLATION
AND RULES**

1:05PM REPORT OF FINANCE

1:20PM REPORT OF AMERICANISM
**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING
DEPARTMENTS**
**THE FRANK N. BELGRANO JR.
TROPHY**
**RALPH T. O'NEIL EDUCATION
TROPHY**
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

**1:40PM PRESENTATION—WILLIAM
RANDOLPH HEARST
AMERICANISM TROPHY**
By: Otto Wick Jr., Vice
President and Publisher
Midland Daily News
Midland, Michigan
To: Winning Department

**1:50PM PRESENTATION—
REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION YOUTH
PROGRAMS**
1996 Boys Nation President
Kem Thomas Footman
Indianapolis, Indiana

1996 Gold Medalist
Precision Category
Junior Shooting
Sports Program

1996 First Place Winner
National Oratorical Contest
Kaleen E. Love
Mesa, Arizona

1995 Baseball Player
of the Year
Jason Adaro
Aiea, Hawaii

1996 Eagle Scout of the Year
Grant E. Garrigues
San Diego, California

SPECIAL PRESENTATION
By: Larry Hice, Assistant
General Sales Manager
Buick Motor Division

2:05PM MESSAGE TO THE CONVENTION
From: George Bentley
The Society of American Legion
Founders

2:10PM GREETINGS
A. W. (Akmal) Khan
Dominion President
Army, Navy and Air Force
Veterans in Canada

Joseph Kobolak
Dominion President
The Royal Canadian Legion

General Yang, Ting-yun
Chairman
Vocational Assistance
Commission for Retired
Servicemen – Republic of China

General Chang, Tae-Wan
President
The Korean Veterans
Association

Graham Downing, Chairman
The Royal British Legion

**2:35PM PRESENTATION—CHAPEL OF
FOUR CHAPLAINS LEGION OF
HONOR BRONZE MEDALLION**
By: Dante Mattioni, Esq.
Chairman
The Chapel of Four Chaplains

To: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

SALUTE TO COLORS

2:40PM RECESS

**WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 4, 1996**

8:30AM PRELUDE
"The Men of Song"

9AM CALL TO ORDER
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

SALUTE TO COLORS

INVOCATION
Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds
(TX)
National Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

9:10AM ADDRESS
The Hon. Jesse Brown
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

**9:30AM PRESENTATION—EMPLOYER OF
THE YEAR AWARDS FOR HIRING
VETERANS**
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

To: David C. Williams, President
Audit Security Bags, Inc.
West Lebanon, New Hampshire

To: Carl E. Shoemaker
Personnel, Safety and
Environmental Administrator
Green Mountain Rifle Barrel Co.
Conway, New Hampshire

To: Michael Densmore
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber
Company
Topeka, Kansas

9:45AM REPORT OF ECONOMICS
Employment and Veterans
Preference

Other Economic Matters

10AM ADDRESS

10:25AM ADDRESS

10:45AM ADDRESS
Maj. Gen. John P. Herrling
Secretary
Presidential WW II Memorial
Advisory Board

10:55AM ADDRESS
Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught,
USAF (Ret.)
President, Women in Military
Service for America Memorial
Foundation, Inc.

11:05AM ADDRESS
John Dyer, President & CEO
RxAmerica

**11:10AM INTRODUCTION—SONS OF THE
AMERICAN LEGION**
Newly Elected National
Commander

**11:20AM REPORT OF CREDENTIALS &
INTERNAL AFFAIRS—SECTION II**

11:50AM ADDRESS
Representative
George C. Marshall Foundation

**12:10PM REPORT OF CREDENTIALS &
INTERNAL AFFAIRS—
MEMBERSHIP**

**12:20PM DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP
AWARDS**

**12:30PM REPORT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
& REHABILITATION**
Claims and Rating
Hospitals and Medical Services

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF WINNING
DEPARTMENT—WILLIAM F.
LENKER NATIONAL SERVICE
TROPHY**
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

1:15PM REPORT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH
**PRESENTATION OF GARLAND
MURPHY AWARD**
By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

**1:30PM REPORT OF FOREIGN
RELATIONS**

**1:55PM REPORT OF CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENTS**

SALUTE TO COLORS

RECESS

78th Annual Nation Convention The American Legion Agenda

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

8:40AM MUSICAL PRESENTATION

By: Steve Grimm
Medora, North Dakota

9AM CALL TO ORDER
Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

SALUTE TO COLORS

INVOCATION
Rev. Mr. Joseph E. Reynolds
(TX)
National Chaplain

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

9:10AM ADDRESS

NOTE: Times of subsequent sessions and time of Convention Committee Reports are subject to change by the Chair.

9:30AM PRESENTATION—THE AMERICAN LEGION FOURTH ESTATE AWARD

By: Daniel A. Ludwig (MN)
National Commander

To: James C. "Denny" Crimmins
Chairman
High Road Productions

9:45AM ADDRESS

10:05AM REPORT OF NATIONAL SECURITY

Aerospace
Defense Civil Preparedness
Law and Order
Merchant Marine
Military Affairs
Naval Affairs

10:40AM PRESENTATION OF PLAQUE AND COLORS TO OUTGOING

NATIONAL COMMANDER

By: John H. Geiger (IL)
Past National Commander
(PLAQUE)

By: Daniel F. Foley (MN)
Past National Commander
(COLORS)

NOON (or at the conclusion of all other business, whichever occurs first)

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

National Commander

ADMINISTERING THE OATH OF OFFICE TO THE NATIONAL COMMANDER

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

ELECTION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Five National Vice Commanders

PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

RESPONSE BY NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL COMMANDER

PRESENTATION OF NEWLY ELECTED NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BENEDICTION

RETIREMENT OF COLORS

NOTE: The National Executive Committee will meet within 24 hours after close of the Convention.

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1996 Distinguished Guests

Guests whose names appear in bold type will take part in activities listed in the official agenda.

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1995 American Legion
Baseball Player
of the Year
Pearl City, HI

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Secretary/Treasurer
Lancaster Uniform Cap
Co.
Los Angeles, CA

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President
The Bronze Craft Corp.
Nashua, NH

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National Vice
President
American Legion
Auxiliary

RONALD G. BACHMAN
Regional Director
Veterans' Employment
& Training Service
U. S. Department
of Labor
Chicago, IL

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President
Fox Associates
Chicago, IL

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Annin & Company
Roseland, NJ

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Office of Veterans
Affairs
Small Business
Administration
Washington, DC

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McGruff Safe Kids
Wayzata, MN

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Hatch
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Branson, MO

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1995-96 Department
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The American Legion
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Salt Lake City, UT

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Robert Smith
Washington, DC

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Seoul, Korea

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Kirke-Van Drsdel, Inc.
West Des Moines, IA

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Organization Liaison
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Washington, DC

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Youth Programs
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Acting Director
Ballistic Missile
Defense Organization
Washington, DC

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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

CONVENTION CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS

The American Legion National Convention Office
Red Lion Hotel, Suite 430
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(Through Sept. 6, 1996)

THE AMERICAN LEGION HEADQUARTERS HOTELS

The Inn at Temple Square
19 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Red Lion Hotel
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Little America Hotel & Towers
500 South Main Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

THE AMERICAN LEGION GENERAL SESSIONS

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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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75 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION SESSIONS

Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel
75 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

TWENTY & FOUR HEADQUARTERS

Little America Hotel & Towers
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Salt Lake City, UT 84101

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Dyke E. Shannon (Adj.)

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130 West 400 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-6000
Charles M. Yunker (Adj.)

KENTUCKY
Days Inn Airport
1900 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 539-8538
Ken W. Hart (Adj.)

LOUISIANA
Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel
75 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-0800
James E. Tripp (Adj.)

MAINE
Quality Inn City Center
154 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-2930
Charles H. Michaud, Jr. (Adj.)

MARYLAND
Crystal Inn
230 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 328-4466
Thomas L. Davis (Adj.)

MASSACHUSETTS
Quality Inn City Center
154 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-2930
Dominick Genetti (Adj.)

MEXICO

Doubletree Hotel
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-7500
Joe Paulsen (Adj.)

MICHIGAN

Ramada Inn - Downtown
230 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 364-5200
Hubert B. Hess (Adj.)

MINNESOTA

Red Lion Hotel
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 328-2000
Lyle R. Foltz (Adj.)

MISSISSIPPI

Comfort Inn - Airport
200 North Admiral Byrd Road
Salt Lake City, UT 84116-3773
(801) 537-7444
James H. Herring (Adj.)

MISSOURI

Little America Hotel & Towers
500 South Main St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-6781
L. Carey Bankhead (Adj.)

MONTANA

Howard Johnson Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-0130
Carl L. Nordberg (Adj.)

NEBRASKA

Doubletree Hotel
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-7500
Robert B. Craig (Adj.)

NEVADA

University Park Hotel
480 Wakara Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 581-1000
Romaine Roethel (Adj.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Howard Johnson
122 West South Temple
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(801) 521-0130
Donald Holmquist (Adj.)

NEW JERSEY

Airport Hilton
5151 Wiley Post Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 539-1515
Raymond L. Zawacki (Adj.)

NEW MEXICO

Travelodge City Center
524 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-7100
L. A. "Tony" Santillanes (Adj.)

NEW YORK

Best Western Olympus
161 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-7373

Peery Hotel

110 West 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-4300
Richard M. Pedro (Adj.)

NORTH CAROLINA

Quality Inn Airport
5575 West Amelia Earhart Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 537-7020
William R. Patterson (Adj.)

NORTH DAKOTA

Howard Johnson Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-0130
David M. Schmidt (Adj.)

OHIO

Doubletree Hotel
215 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-7500
Roger Hight (Adj.)

OKLAHOMA

Airport Hilton
5151 Wiley Post Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 539-1515
Jerry D. Askins (Adj.)

OREGON

Salt Lake City Residence Inn
765 East 400 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
(801) 532-5511
Barry J. Snyder (Adj.)

PENNSYLVANIA

Salt Lake Hilton
150 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 532-3344
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Commander:
Little America Hotel & Towers
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(801) 363-6781

Delegation:

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176 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 531-1252
Julio D. Roble (Adj.)

PUERTO RICO

Little America Hotel & Towers
500 South Main St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-6781
Michael A. Quiles (Adj.)

RHODE ISLAND

Embassy Suites
110 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 359-7800
Fernando M. Goulart (Adj.)

SOUTH CAROLINA

Diamond Inn
1009 South Main St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84111
(801) 355-4567
Jimmy E. Hawk (Adj.)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Howard Johnson Hotel
122 West South Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 521-0130
Arlin W. Anderson (Adj.)

TENNESSEE

Holiday Inn Airport
1659 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 533-9000
A. Mike Hammer (Adj.)

TEXAS

Radisson Airport Hotel
2177 West North Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 364-5800
Michael T. Palmquist (Adj.)

UTAH

Little America Hotel
& Towers
500 South Main St.
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 363-6781
Robert L. Wainscott (Adj.)

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Red Lion Hotel
255 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 328-2000
Robert A. Bergeron (Adj.)

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Embassy Suites
110 West 600 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 359-7800
Cornelius T. O'Neill (Adj.)

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5575 West Amelia Earhart Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84116
(801) 537-7020
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WEST VIRGINIA

Residence Inn
300 West 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(801) 355-3300
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Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel
75 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
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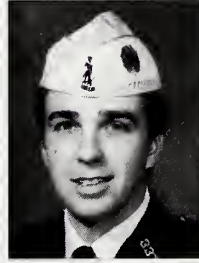
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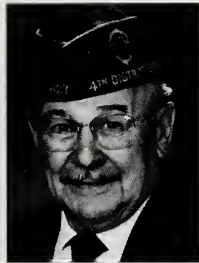
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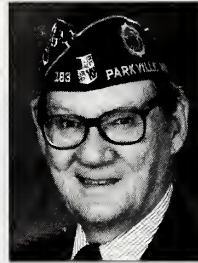
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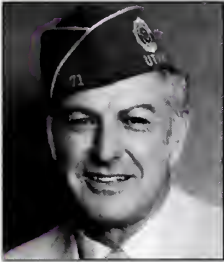


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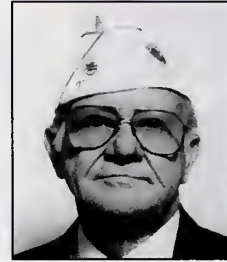
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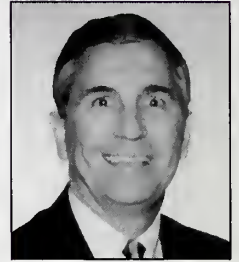
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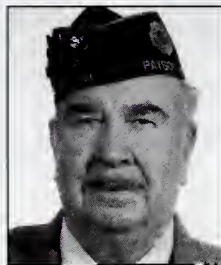


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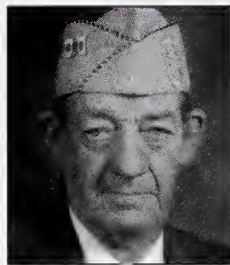
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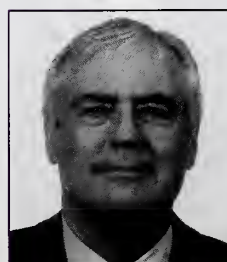
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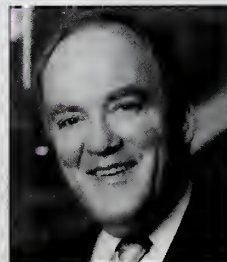
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LIAISON—GOVERNMENT

The American Legion Honor Roll of Service

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS 1919-1995

*Franklin D'Olier Pennsylvania 1919-20	*Edward A. Hayes Illinois 1933-34	*Perry Brown Texas 1948-49	Hon. Daniel F. Foley Minnesota 1963-64	John M. Carey Michigan 1978-79
**Frederick W. Galbraith Jr. Ohio 1920-21	*Frank N. Belgrano Jr. California 1934-35	*George N. Craig Indiana 1949-50	Donald E. Johnson Iowa 1964-65	Frank I. Hamilton Indiana 1979-80
***John G. Emery Michigan 1921	*Ray Murphy Iowa 1935-36	Erle Cocke Jr. Georgia 1950-51	L. Eldon James Virginia 1965-66	Michael J. Kogutek New York 1980-81
*Hanford MacNider Iowa 1921-22	*Harry W. Colmery Kansas 1936-37	*Donald R. Wilson West Virginia 1951-52	*John E. Davis North Dakota 1966-67	Jack W. Flynt Texas 1981-82
*Alvin M. Owsley Texas 1922-23	*Daniel J. Doherty Massachusetts 1937-38	*Lewis K. Gough California 1952-53	William E. Galbraith Nebraska 1967-68	Al Keller Jr. Illinois 1982-83
*John R. Quinn California 1923-24	*Stephen F. Chadwick Washington 1938-39	*Arthur J. Connell Connecticut 1953-54	*William C. Doyle New Jersey 1968-69	Keith Kreul Wisconsin 1983-84
*James A. Drain District of Columbia 1924-25	*Raymond J. Kelly Michigan 1939-40	*Seaborn P. Collins New Mexico 1954-55	*J. Milton Patrick Oklahoma 1969-70	Clarence M. Bacon Maryland 1984-85
*John R. McQuigg Ohio 1925-26	*Milo J. Warner Ohio 1940-41	J. Addington Wagner Michigan 1955-56	*Alfred R. Chamie California 1970-71	*Dale L. Renaud Iowa 1985-86
*Howard P. Savage Illinois 1926-27	*Lynn U. Stambaugh North Dakota 1941-42	*Dan Daniel Virginia 1956-57	John H. Geiger Illinois 1971-72	James P. Dean Mississippi 1986-87
*Edward E. Spafford New York 1927-28	*Roane Waring Tennessee 1942-43	*John S. Gleason Jr. Illinois 1957-58	Joe L. Matthews Texas 1972-73	John P. "Jake" Comer Massachusetts 1987-88
*Paul V. McNutt Indiana 1928-29	*Warren H. Atherton California 1943-44	Preston J. Moore Oklahoma 1958-59	*Robert E.L. Eaton Maryland 1973-74	Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke North Dakota 1988-89
*O. Lee Bodenhamer Arkansas 1929-30	*Edward N. Scheiberling New York 1944-45	*Martin B. McKneally New York 1959-60	James M. Wagoner Ohio 1974-75	Miles S. Epling West Virginia 1989-90
*Ralph T. O'Neil Kansas 1930-31	*John Stelle Illinois 1945-46	William R. Burke California 1960-61	Harry G. Wiles Kansas 1975-76	Robert S. Turner Georgia 1990-91
*Henry L. Stevens Jr. North Carolina 1931-32	*Paul H. Griffith Pennsylvania 1946-47	*Charles L. Bacon Missouri 1961-62	William J. Rogers Maine 1976-77	Dominic D. DiFrancesco Pennsylvania 1991-92
*Louis A. Johnson West Virginia 1932-33	*James F. O'Neil New Hampshire 1947-48	*James E. Powers Georgia 1962-63	*Robert Charles Smith Louisiana 1977-78	Roger A. Munson Ohio 1992-93
				Bruce Thiesen California 1993-94
				William Detweiler Louisiana 1994-95

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS BY VOTE OF NATIONAL CONVENTION

*Bennett Champ Clark Missouri—Presided at Paris Caucus, March 1919	*Henry D. Lindsley Texas—Presided at St. Louis Caucus, May 1919	*Eric Fisher Wood Pennsylvania— Temporary Chairman and Secretary at Paris Caucus	*Thomas W. Miller Nevada—Chairman Pro Tempore Paris Caucus March 1919	*Hamilton Fish New York 1979
*Milton J. Foreman Illinois—Chairman, Executive Committee at Paris	*Theodore Roosevelt Jr. New York		*Maurice Stember New York	E. Roy Stone Jr. South Carolina 1987

HONORARY NATIONAL COMMANDERS

*General John J. Pershing

*Marshal Ferdinand Foch

*Deceased

**Killed in auto accident while serving as Commander

***Elected by Executive Committee to fill unexpired term.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL RECIPIENTS

1921	Marshal Ferdinand Foch of France Adm. Earl Beatty of Great Britain Gen. Baron Jacques of Belgium Gen. Armando Diaz of Italy Charles Bertrand of France
1922	Gen. of the Armies John J. Pershing
1923	Adm. Robert E. Coontz Gen. Josef Haller of Poland
1926	Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland
1927	Comte Francois Marie Robert Dejean of France
1928	Field Marshal Viscount Allenby of Great Britain
1929	Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis
1930	Adm. William S. Sims
1942	Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur
1943	Gen. George C. Marshall Adm. Ernest J. King
1944	Hon. Frank Knox* Henry Ford Gen. H.H. Arnold
1945	President Franklin D. Roosevelt Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr.* Ernest (Ernie) Pyle* Hon. Henry L. Stimson Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz Gen. of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower
1946	Edgar Hoover Bob Hope William Randolph Hearst Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey Hon. Cordell Hull
1947	Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen Sen. Edward Martin Chief Justice Fred M. Vinson
1949	President Harry S. Truman George Herman (Babe) Ruth* Maj. Gen. Frank Parker*
1950	Charles F. Johnson Jr. Maj. Gen. Milton A. Reckord Rep. Edith Nourse Rogers
1951	Gen. Charles P. Summerall
1953	Rep. Royal C. Johnson*
1954	Maj. Gen. George A. White*
1955	Dr. Jonas E. Salk Maj. Gen. Ellard A. Walsh
1956	Vice Adm. Joel T. Boone Charles Stewart Mott
1957	Gen. Mark W. Clark The Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen
1958	Bernard Mannes Baruch Unknown Servicemen of World War I, World War II, and Korea, Interred at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, Arlington National Cemetery
1959	Sen. Robert S. Kerr
1961	President John F. Kennedy
1962	Gen. Lucius D. Clay Dr. Thomas A. Dooley*
1963	Francis Cardinal Spellman
1964	Dr. Charles W. Mayo
1965	President Herbert C. Hoover* Hon. James F. Byrnes
1966	Capt. Roger H.C. Donlon
1967	Hon. Tom C. Clark
1968	President Lyndon B. Johnson Gen. William C. Westmoreland
1969	President Richard M. Nixon
1970	Rep. Olin E. Teague
1971	Rep. L. Mendel Rivers* Sen. Richard B. Russell*
1972	Sen. John C. Stennis Dewitt Wallace
1974	Hon. Henry A. Kissinger Rep. F. Edward Hebert
1975	Harry W. Colmery
1976	Pat O'Brien
1977	Howard A. Rusk, M.D.
1978	Bowie K. Kuhn
1979	Thomas A. Murphy
1980	President Gerald R. Ford Dead & Missing of the Vietnam War
1981	American Space Shuttle Astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen
1982	President Ronald W. Reagan
1983	Adm. Hyman C. Rickover
1984	Sen. J. Strom Thurmond
1985	Hon. Caspar W. Weinberger Fleet Adm. William F. Halsey Jr.*
1987	Hon. William H. Webster
1988	Douglas Edwards
1989	Hon. Howard H. Baker Jr.
1990	Michael E. DeBakey, M.D.
1991	President George H.W. Bush
1992	Richard Thornburgh
1993	Gen. Colin Powell
1994	Walter Annenburg
1995	Crew of the Enola Gay (Paul W. Tibbets, Dutch Van Kirk, Tom Ferebee, Dick Nelson and Bob Carron*)

*Awarded Posthumously

The American Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion Auxiliary NATIONAL OFFICERS



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National President



Peggy Sappenfield
National Secretary



Marta Hedding
National Treasurer



Vivian Taylor
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Vice President
Southern Division



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Vice President
Eastern Division

ANNUAL



“ BELIEVE we need to get back to basics and the red, white and blue. For me and for every member of our organization, the most important... is our home, our community, our country.”

These words from National President Syble Deshotel rang through the convention hall as she pledged in her installation address to get back to the main principles of the American Legion Auxiliary.

This year our National Chairmen were asked to band together on programs and activities, as well as concentrate on serving the membership while aggressively pursuing new members. With the theme “Let the Good Times Roll,” members received training about forming good-time festivals, generating activities to promote membership and sparking interest from old and new members in existing programs.

The Citizens Flag Alliance and the efforts to protect the American Flag from physical desecration are still at the forefront of the Auxiliary's mission.

“Every member of our organization is more important than ever as a flag waver everywhere. Education, distribution of information and action in our communities becomes our duty and our goal. We love and respect our banner—our flag. Remember, the battle is not lost. As Americans we still have our voices and our votes.”

Society is frequently awakened to the atrocities of juvenile violence, abuse and suicide. These issues have been targeted through some of the focus areas of this year's Children and Youth Program. Current areas of importance include Family Emphasis, Juvenile Delinquency Prevention and Child Immunization.

Indeed, children are the repository of our future, and this caring shines through in our support of The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. This year every Department has been challenged to improve their average level of contributions to 25 cents per member. Our contri-

The American Legion Auxiliary

REPORT

butions to the foundation are used exclusively in providing grants for numerous youth projects.

This year, members of the American Legion Auxiliary selected domestic violence prevention as a focus area of the Community Service program. Through nationwide volunteer efforts, Auxiliary members have worked to minimize domestic abuse. What better organization to provide this much needed help than the nearly 1 million American Legion Auxiliary? Our efforts today will help empower all women tomorrow.

We are very fortunate to be working with The American Legion on the Education Committee, and extremely proud to be involved with the tremendous scholarship that is being offered for 1996 Girls and Boys State citizens – the Samsung/American Legion Scholarship.

The 50th anniversary of Girls Nation provided this year's session with many special celebrations honoring the success of this program. Many former Girls State Directors returned to join in this special anniversary. Each year 25,000 young delegates learn the mechanisms of state and local government in Girls State programs. As Auxiliary members, we look forward to the next 50 years of helping mold our leaders of the future.

An additional component to the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program this year has been work with the Fisher Houses. Zachary and Elizabeth Fisher have donated over \$15 million to the construction of 25 comfort homes for families of hospitalized military personnel. The Fishers were honored at the 1996 Awareness Assembly with the Auxiliary's Public Spirit Award. National President Deshotel praised the Fishers for their "undying commitment to our nation's Armed Forces and commendation for being outstanding Americans."

One million members *can* make a difference! Auxiliary members joined this great organization because of a special veteran who was a part of their lives. Our organization is made up of members who pay dues and volunteer to make our communities better places to live.

We know our programs, along with the many other special activities which make up our lives in our communities, are what we do best! And "For God and Country" we will continue our mission into the next millennium. ■

76th NATIONAL CONVENTION AGENDA

■ Salt Palace Convention Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 31, 1996

8-9AM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Salt Palace Convention Center
Ballroom A

9:30-10:30AM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING REGISTRATION
Salt Lake City Marriott
Salon F Foyer

9:30-11:30AM PRE-CONVENTION COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Salt Palace Convention Center

Group A	Americanism
Ballroom A	Auxiliary Emergency Fund
	Community Service

Group B	Children & Youth
Ballroom B	Education
	Girls State

Group C	Cavalcade of Memories
Ballroom C	Junior Activities
	National Security
	Public Relations

Group D	Legislative
Ballroom D	Past Presidents Parley
	Poppy

Group E	Chaplains
Ballroom E	Historians
	Leadership

Group F	Permanent Organization
Ballroom F	Rules
	Constitution & Bylaws

Group G	Membership
Ballroom G	

Group H	Credentials (9:30 - 10:00)
Ballroom H	

	Resolutions (10:00 - 11:30)
Group I	Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
	Room 150G

Group J	Finance
	Room 259

10:30-11:30AM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING
Salt Lake City Marriott, Salon F

11:30AM-1PM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING LUNCH
Salt Lake City Marriott, Salons I & J

1-2PM NATIONAL JUNIOR DIVISION CAUCUSES
Salt Lake City Marriott

Central	Alta	Second Floor
Eastern	Salon F	First Floor
Northwestern	Brighton	Second Floor
Southern	Park City	Second Floor
Western	Solitude	First Floor

1:30-3PM PAGES REHEARSAL
Salt Palace Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A

2-3PM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING
Salt Lake City Marriott
Salon F

SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

7:45-8:15AM PRE-CAUCUS RECEPTION

8-10:30AM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING
Salt Lake City Marriott, Salon F

8:15-10:15AM DIVISION CAUCUSES
Salt Palace Convention Center

Central	Ballrooms E&G	First Floor
Eastern	Ballroom A	First Floor
Northwestern	Ballroom C	First Floor
Southern	Ballrooms B&D	First Floor
Western	Ballroom F	First Floor

10:30AM PATRIOTIC RELIGIOUS SERVICE
Mormon Tabernacle

1-3PM NATIONAL JUNIOR MEETING
Salt Lake City Marriott, Salon F

MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

9AM OPENING SESSION
76th National Convention
Salt Palace Convention Center
Exhibit Hall A

OPENING PROCESSIONAL

CALL TO ORDER
Syble D. Deshotel
National President

INVOCATION

Vivian Taylor
National Chaplain

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sandi Dutton
National Americanism Chairman

The American Legion Auxiliary

NATIONAL ANTHEM

National Convention Chorus

PREAMBLE TO THE CONSTITUTION

Diane Duscheck
National Constitution &
Bylaws Chairman

WELCOME

Syble D. Deshotel
National President

INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS

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Department President, Utah
Betty Calder
National Convention Chairman

Eight and Forty
Elizabeth Lori
Le Chapeau National

Sons of The American Legion
John Dietz
National Commander

GREETINGS FROM THE PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS

Linda Newsome
Junior Past National President

MESSAGE TO PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENTS ABSENT

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National Vice Chairman of Pages
Madeline Nelson, Personal Page
Rowena Drury, Personal Page
Estelle Patin, Personal Page
Nancy Hines, Personal Page
Dora Seymour
Distinguished Guests Committee Chairman
Ione Kubby
Distinguished Guests Committee Vice Chairman
Mildred Braquet
Distinguished Guests Committee Member

REPORT OF CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Credentials
Rita Barylski, Chairman
Permanent Organization
Hattie Johnson, Chairman
Rules
Marion Heller, Chairman

ACCEPTANCE OF PROGRAM

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Girls State
Katherine Morris, Chairman
1996 Girls Nation President
Katherine Randall
Presentations
Scholarship

INTRODUCTION AND GREETINGS

The American Legion

William Christoffersen
President
The American Legion Convention
Corporation of Utah

Robert Spanogle
National Adjutant

Daniel Ludwig
National Commander

Americanism
Sandi Dutton, Chairman

1996 Girl Scout Achievement
Award Winner
Jennifer Erickson

Presentation
Scholarship

Junior Activities
Elsie Bailey, Chairman

1996 Honorary National Junior
President
Traci Lancaster

Introduction of Newly-Elected
Honorary National Junior President

Presentation
Scholarship

First Reading of Proposed
Amendments to the Constitution
& Bylaws
Diane Duscheck
Constitution and Bylaws Chairman

Membership
Rita Navarrete, Chairman

Introduction of Goal Department
Presidents

Awards Presentation

Membership Drawing

It's Festival Time—Let the Good
Times Roll!
Introduction of 1995-1996
Department Presidents

RECESS

TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 3, 1996

8:30AM CALL TO ORDER
Syble D. Deshotel
National President

INVOCATION

Vivian Taylor
National Chaplain

NOMINATION OF 1996-1997 NATIONAL OFFICERS

REPORTS OF NATIONAL OFFICERS

Vivian Taylor
National Chaplain
Presentation from Chapel of Four
Chaplains

Phyllis Nickoson
National Historian

Marta Hedding
National Treasurer

Peggy Sappenfield
National Secretary

Greetings from Representatives of
Vocational Assistance

Commission for Retired Servicemen
and Korean Veterans Association

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Constitution & Bylaws
Diane Duscheck, Chairman

Auxiliary Emergency Fund
Deedy Harrell, Chairman

Cavalcade of Memories
Pearl Behrend, Chairman

Children & Youth
Virginia Hobbs, Chairman

Community Service
Molly Spearman, Chairman

Education
Kristine West, Chairman

Finance
Anna Gear, Chairman

RECESS

11:45AM PAST DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENTS' LUNCHEON
Salt Lake City Marriott, Salons A-H

1:30PM CALL TO ORDER
Syble D. Deshotel
National President

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL CONVENTION COMMITTEES

CITIZENS FLAG ALLIANCE
Major General Patrick H. Brady,
US Army Ret.
Chairman of the Board

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Relations
Sherry McLaughlin, Chairman

HEART OF AMERICA AWARDS PRESENTATION

MEMORIAL SERVICE

RECESS

WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 4, 1996

8:30AM CALL TO ORDER
Syble D. Deshotel
National President

INVOCATION

Vivian Taylor
National Chaplain

ELECTION OF 1996-1997 NATIONAL OFFICERS

NATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Leadership
Betsey Lee Hodges, Chairman

Legislative
Carol Van Kirk, Chairman

Past Presidents Parley
Linda Newsome, Chairman

**WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE TO
AMERICA MEMORIAL**

Wilma L. Vaught
Brigadier General, USAF (Ret.)

National Security
Margaret Demery, Chairman

Poppy
JoAnn Cronin, Chairman

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation
Barbara Kranig, Chairman

Honorable Jesse Brown
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

REPORT OF ELECTION COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION OF 1996-1997 OFFICERS

RECESS

1PM CALL TO ORDER

Syble D. Deshotel
National President

**PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL
PRESIDENT'S SCRAPBOOK**

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Syble D. Deshotel

REPORT OF RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Stewart, Chairman

Rose Franz, Vice Chairman

Eleanor Gremillion, Member

RECESSIONAL OF COLORS

RECESS

7:00PM STATES DINNER

Ballroom
Salt Palace Convention Center

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5, 1996**

**8:30AM INSTALLATION OF 1996-1997
NATIONAL OFFICERS**

**PRESENTATION OF PIN AND RIBBON TO
RETIRING NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS TO RETIRING
NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

RETIREMENT OF NATIONAL COLORS

**ADJOURNMENT OF NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

**POST-CONVENTION NATIONAL EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEETING**
(Immediately following Convention
adjournment)
Salt Palace Convention Center
Room 150G

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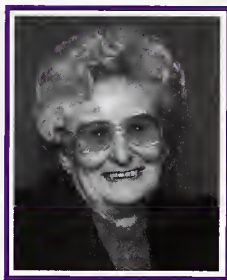
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75th Annual La Marche Nationale Salon National La Boutique Des Huit Chapeaux Et Quarante Femmes

■ Salt Lake City Marriott
Salt Lake City, Utah
September 5, 6, 7, 1996



☑ Elizabeth B. Lori
La Chapeau
National



☑ Elyline
Schweitzer
La Secretaire-
Caissiere
Nationale

REGISTRATION

Registration will take place in the board room of the National Office headquarters at the Salt Lake City Marriott. Hours of operation are as follows:

Monday, September 2
2:30 – 6 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3,
Noon – 2 p.m., 4 – 6 p.m.

Wednesday, September 4
Noon – 2 p.m., 4 – 6 p.m.

Thursday, September 5
10 a.m. – Noon, 2 – 6:00 p.m.

Friday, September 6
10 – 11:30 a.m., 2 – 6 p.m.

Saturday, September 7
8 – 9 a.m.

DISPLAY AND EMBLEM SALES

Hours will be the same as the Registration hours, in the same room. Order forms will be placed in every convention packet for convenience and will list only those items available at La Marche. For inventory control purposes, all orders must be ac-

companied by complete order form. Forms will also be available at emblem display. Partners must show current 1996 partnership cards in order to purchase items.

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

11:30AM LES CHAPEAUX NATIONAUX
PASSES LUNCHEON

SOLITUDE ROOM

PRE-MARCHE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

SALON G

2-2:30PM PERMANENT ORGANIZATION
Chairman Fonda Pike

2:30-4PM CHILDREN & YOUTH
Chairman Helen Goewey

PARK CITY ROOM

2-2:30PM CREDENTIALS
Chairman Thelma Barteld

2:30-3PM RESOLUTIONS
Chairman Beverly Stites

3-4PM CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS
Chairman Donna Baley

SALON I

2-2:45PM NURSES SCHOLARSHIP
Chairman Frances Haydel

2:45-3:15PM AWARDS
Chairman Donna Berkheimer

3:15-4PM PARTNERSHIP
Chairman Judy Shippee

ALTA ROOM

2-2:45PM PUBLICITY
Chairman Gloria Moatz

2:45-3:15PM L'AUMONIER Wanda North

3:15-4PM L'ARCHIVISTE Reina Svacha

SALON J

2-2:30PM RITUAL & EMBLEM
Chairman Marion Heller

2:30-3PM RULES OF ORDER
Chairman Rita Barylski

3-4PM HANDBOOK
Chairman Violet Aichholz

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 5, 1996

SALON F

4:30-5:30PM Pre-marche pouvoir
Le Chapeau National
Elizabeth Lori

REHEARSAL LES MARECHAL

SALON E & F

6PM Rehearsal—Pauline Bonham, La Concierge Nationale, Chairman of Pages, Rosalee Randall, Vice Chairman, Violet O'Leary, Les Marechals, Jackie Bochat, Irene Stidman, Distinguished Guest, Chairman Virginia Kates and Committee and ALL PAGES will report for rehearsal and be given ribbons.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

SALON F

7:30-9PM Leadership Update
Chairman Eunice Staley

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 6, 1996

LA MARCHE NATIONALE

SALON E AND F

9AM Opening session
La Marche Chairman
Presiding—Linda Turner

PRESENTATION OF CHAPEAUX NATIONAUX PASSES

Frances Snow Keefe
Elyline Schweitzer
Jeanette Michelet
Helene Mardu
Virginia DeForce
Kathleen Robinson
Ann Suvak
Jean Hayes
Lois Lansdale
Edith Still
Marie Smith
Donna Baley
Treva Reimink
Elsie Hemphill

75th Annual La Marche Nationale Salon National La Boutique Des Huit Chapeaux Et Quarante Femmes

Maxine Martin
Dorothy Brady
Violet Aichholz
Colleen Stephens
Mary Russell
Virginia Kates
Eunice Staley
Mille H. Nierman

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS
escorted by La Marche Pages

Hat Box Editor
Venita Holthaus
L'Avocate Nationale
Helene Mardu
La Secretaire-Caissiere Nationale
Elyline Schweitzer
La Concierge Nationale
Pauline Bonham
L'Aumonier
Wanda North
L'Archiviste Nationale
Reina Svacha
Les Divisional Demi Chapeaux
Eastern Division
Cynthia Hochbrueckner
Central Division
Geraldine Hobbie
Northwestern Division
Louise Tuttle
Southern Division
Virginia Bowman
Western Division
Margaret Sheridan

PRESENTATION OF LE CHAPEAU NATIONAL

Chairman, Vice Chairman of Pages
Les Marechals & Personal Pages
Le Chapeau National
Elizabeth B. Lori
Musicienne, Phyllis Hardin &
Soloist Linda Jelnick, "I'd Like to
Teach the World to Sing"

CALL TO ORDER

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

ADVANCEMENT OF COLORS

Pauline Bonham, La Concierge
Nationale, and Les Marechals,
Jackie Bochat, Irene Stidman

INVOCATION

Wanda North
L'Aumonier Nationale

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pauline Bonham
La Concierge National

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Musicienne, Soloist and Assembly

FLANDERS FIELD

Cynthia Hochbrueckner
Demi Chapeau, Eastern Division

AMERICA'S ANSWER

Geraldine Hobbie
Demi Chapeau, Central Division

RESPONSE

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

ROLL CALL

Elyline Schweitzer
La Secretaire Caissiere Nationale

CALL TO 1996 LA MARCHÉ

Elyline Schweitzer
La SecretaireCaissiere Nationale

**REPORT OF THE MINUTES COMMITTEE
FOR THE 1995 LA MARCHÉ NATIONALE**

Chairman Donna Baley
Member Marie Smith and
Colleen Stephens

PRESENTATION & GREETINGS

Virginia Kates Chairman
Distinguished Guest, Martha Marsh,
Vice Chairman and all Nationaux
Chapeaux Passes
Daniel Ludwig
National Commander
The American Legion
Syble Deshotel
National President
American Legion Auxiliary
National Commander-Elect
The American Legion
Phyllis Bachman
National Vice President
American Legion Auxiliary
Peggy Sappenfield
National Secretary
American Legion Auxiliary
Robert Spanogle
National Adjutant
The American Legion
Marta Hedding
National Treasurer
American Legion Auxiliary
Virginia Hobbs
National Children & Youth
Chairman, American Legion
Auxiliary
Eugene Lindquist
Children and Youth Commission
The American Legion
Elmer Fuhrhop
Children and Youth Chairman
The American Legion
William Pease
Asst. Director,
Americanism/Children & Youth
The American Legion
Terry Woodburn
Deputy Director,
Americanism/Children & Youth
The American Legion
Linda Turner
Chairman 1996
La Marche Nationale

Betty Calder
National Convention Chairman
American Legion Auxiliary
The Hon. Mike Leavitt
Governor of Utah
The Hon. Dee Dee Corrandini
Mayor of Salt Lake City
William Christofferson
National Convention Chairman and
Utah N.E.C.
The American Legion
Annette Simons
Utah N.E.C.
American Legion Auxiliary
H. Dale Brockbank
Department Commander
The American Legion of Utah
Dixie Swasy
Department President
American Legion Auxiliary of Utah
Linda Turner
Departemental Chapeau de Utah
Richard Holmes
President of 1996 Convention
Corporation

**INTRODUCTION OF CHAPEAUX
NATIONAUX PASSES**

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

**SPEAKING FOR THE CHAPEAUX
NATIONAUX PASSES**

Mille H. Nierman
Immediate Chapeau National Passe

**REPORT OF SPECIAL MARCHÉ
COMMITTEES**

Rules of Order
Rita Barylski, Chairman
Permanent-Organization
Fonda Pike, Chairman

**REPORT OF LES DIVISIONAL
DEMI CHAPEAUX NATIONAUX AND
INTRODUCTION OF LES CHAPEAUX
DEPARTEMENTAUX**

Geraldine Hobbie
Central Division
Cynthia Hochbrueckner
Eastern Division
Louise Tuttle
Northwestern Division
Virginia Bowman
Southern Division
Margaret Sheridan
Western Division

**REPORT OF 1995-1996 NATIONAL
NATIONAL OFFICERS**

Le Chapeau National
Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Demi Chapeau National
Ivy Christoffers
La Secretaire-Caissiere Nationale
Elyline Schweitzer

75th Annual La Marche Nationale Salon National La Boutique Des Huit Chapeaux Et Quarante Femmes

L'Archiviste Nationale
Reina Svacha
L'Avocate Nationale
Helene Mardu
La Concierge Nationale
Pauline Bonham
Hat Box Editor
Venita Holthaus

**NOMINATION OF NATIONAL OFFICERS
FOR 1996-1997**

NOON RECESS

DIVISIONAL CAUCUS LUNCHEON
(Immediately after recess)

Second Session of La Marche Nationale

2PM EIGHT AND FORTY SONG
Musicienne, Soloist and
Assembly

PRESENTATION OF LOCAL COMMITTEE

Linda Turner, La Marche Chairman

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN & INTRODUCTION OF
COMMITTEE MEMBERS, REGIONAL AND
DIVISIONAL CHAIRMEN**

Children & Youth
Chairman Helen Goewey
Guest Speaker Melissa Bice
8 & 40 Coordinator, National
Jewish Center for Immunology
and Respiratory Medicine
Constitution and Bylaws
Chairman Donna Baley
Finance
Chairman Colleen Stephens
Nurses Scholarship
Chairman Frances Haydel
Partnership
Chairman Judy Shippee
Ritual & Emblem
Chairman Marion Heller
Awards
Chairman Donna Berkheimer
Advisory Committee
Chairman Mille Nierman
Publicity
Chairman Gloria Moatz
Photo Book
Chairman Dorothy Flagg
Memory Book
Chairman Elzena Wagner

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

Musicienne, Soloist and Assembly

RECESS until 9am Saturday
(REMINDER: All participating in the
memorial service please report at 8:45am)

SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 7, 1996

Third Session of La Marche Nationale

9AM MEMORIAL SERVICE
(Please remain in your seats; time will be

allotted later for taking photographs.)

EN VOYAGE

Wanda North
L'Aumonier National, Presiding

PRELUDE

Phyllis Hardin
Musicienne

PROCESSIONAL

Les Chapeaux Nationaux Passes
Les Demi Chapeaux, Divisional

ADVANCING MEMORIAL BOOK

PLACING OF FLORAL TRIBUTE

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

PRAYER

Wanda North
L'Aumonier National

MUSICAL SELECTION

Shandra Blake
Junior Member Unit #90 St. George
"BEAUTIFUL ISLE OF SOMEWHERE"

TRIBUTE TO DECEASED PARTNERS

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

**TRIBUTE TO ALL PARTNERS BOARDING
THE SHIP FOR EN VOYAGE—1995-1996**

Geraldine Hobble
Central Division
Cynthia Hochbrueckner
Eastern Division
Louise Tuttle
Northwestern Division
Virginia Bowman
Southern Division
Margaret Sheridan
Western Division

RESPONSE

Wanda North
L'Aumonier National

"EN VOYAGE" Author Unknown

MUSICAL SELECTION

Shandra Blake
"BEYOND THE SUNSET"

CALL TO SALON ETERNAL

Reina Svacha
L'Archiviste National

ANSWERING CALL TO SALON ETERNAL

Pauline Bonham
La Concierge National

MUSICAL SELECTION

Sung by Shandra Blake
"WHEN YOU COME TO THE END OF
A PERFECT DAY"

BENEDICTION

Wanda North
L'Aumonier National

RECESSIONAL

Phyllis Hardin, Musicienne
(Audience remain seated until after
the recessional.)

**REPORT OF SPECIAL MARCHÉ
COMMITTEES**

Credentials—Thelma Barteld
Resolutions—Beverly Stites

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1996-1997

**PRESENTATION OF DISTINGUISHED GUEST
COMMITTEE**

Virginia Kates, Martha Marsh and
all Nationaux Chapeaux Passes

PRESENTATION OF LES MARECHALS

Jackie Bochat and Irene Stidman

PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL PAGES

Chairman Rosalee Randall,
Wisconsin
Vice Chairman Violet O'Leary,
Nevada
Claudia Vetcher, New Hampshire
Frances Swenson, Kansas
Honor Johnson, Michigan
Dorothy Hummer, Missouri
Jackie Guidry, Louisiana
Stella Smith, Florida
Betty Schleuter, Minnesota
Mary Godfrey, California
Agnes Wiederhold, South Dakota
Annie Klingebiel, Virginia
Velma Rinehart, Oklahoma
Willa Romano, Washington

PRESENTATION OF PERSONAL PAGES

To Le Chapeau National—
Virginia Laird, New Jersey
To La Secretaire-Caissiere
Nationale—Emily Miner, California

**PRESENTATION OF AIDES TO
NATIONAL CHAPEAU**

Dorothy Baxter, New Jersey
Annabelle Quarino, New Jersey
Lee Robotti, New Jersey

**RATIFICATION OF ELECTION OF LES
DIVISIONAL DEMI CHAPEAUX NATIONAUX**

**INTRODUCTION OF LES DIVISIONAL DEMI
CHAPEAUX AND PINNING BY OUTGOING
LES DIVISIONAL DEMI CHAPEAUX**

REPORT OF JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

Chairman Judy Bridges

**PRESENTATION OF NEWLY ELECTED
OFFICERS FOR 1996-1997**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MUSICAL SELECTION

Musicienne, Soloist and Assembly
"LONG LONG TRAIL"

RECESS

POST MARCHE POUVOIR
(Saturday, September 7, 1996,
immediately following recess of
Third Session)

LA MARCHE BANQUET

GRAND BALLROOM

6-7PM Social Cash Bar

7PM Banquet

PROCESSIONAL OF GUESTS

Lu Vander Meyden, Chairman
Honored Guest Elizabeth B. Lori,
Le Chapeau, and husband Anthony
Honor Guard

**PRESENTATION OF GAVEL TO LE CHAPEAU
NATIONAL** by Lu Vander Meyden

INVOCATION

Wanda North
L'Aumonier

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pauline Bonham
La Concierge

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Musicienne, Soloist, and all
assembled

WELCOME

Linda Turner
La Marche Chairman

RESPONSE

Ivy Christoffers
Demi Chapeau National

ENTERTAINMENT

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS 1996-1997

Installing Officer—
Le Chapeau National Passes
Mille H. Nierman
Installing L'Aumonier—
Le Chapeau National Passes
Virginia Kates
Installing La Concierge—
Le Chapeau National Passe
Violet Aichholz

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

Ivy Christoffers

FAREWELL ADDRESS

Elizabeth B. Lori
Le Chapeau National

PRESENTATION OF WINGS

Mille H. Nierman
"I Believe in Music, I Believe in
Love"
Musicienne, Phyllis Hardin
Soloist, Linda Jelnick

**PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL CHAPEAU
PASSE PIN**

Le Chapeau National Passe—
Dorothy Brady

BENEDICTION

Wanda North, L'Aumonier

**RETIREMENT OF COLORS AND
LES MARECHALS**

Pauline Bonham, La Concierge,
Jackie Bochat and Irene Stidman

RETIREMENT OF OUTGOING CHAPEAU

Elizabeth B. Lori, escorted by her
husband Anthony and Honor Guard

ADJOURNMENT OF LA MARCHE 1996

by Linda Turner
La Marche Chairman

**RECEIVING LINE IN THE REAR OF
THE ROOM**

SPECIAL MARCHE COMMITTEES

La Marche Chairman
Linda Turner, Utah
Vice Chairman
Cheryl Jensen, Utah
Chairman of Pages
Rosalee Randall, Wisconsin
Vice Chairman of Pages
Violet O'Leary, Nevada
Le Marechal
Jackie Bochat, Illinois
Le Marechal
Irene Stidman, Vermont
Pages: Frances Swenson, Kansas;
Claudia Vetcher, New Hampshire;
Honor Johnson, Michigan; Dorothy
Hummer, Missouri; Jackie Guidry,
Louisiana; Stella Smith, Florida;
Betty Schleuter, Minnesota; Mary
Godfrey, California; Agnes
Wiederhold, South Dakota; Annie
Klingebiel, Virginia; Velma
Rinehart, Oklahoma; Willa Romano,
Washington

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

Chairman Virginia Kates
PNC, Illinois
Vice Chairman
Maratha Marsh, Ohio

**ALL NATIONAUX CHAPEAUX PASSES
CREDENTIALS**

Chairman Thelma Barteld,
Pennsylvania
Betty Jarrell, New Mexico

PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Chairman Fonda Pike, Ohio
Jeanne Fuguee, New Jersey
Rachel Van Gorden, Montana

REGISTRATION

Chairman June Woodard, California
Maxine Price, Nebraska
Mollie Strothampo, Maryland
Martha Barron, Arizona

RESOLUTIONS

Chairman Beverly Stites, Indiana
Marjorie Miller, South Dakota

RULES OF ORDER

Chairman Rita Barylski,
Connecticut
Marie Benz, Oregon
Anita Grimes Barber, Alabama

JUDGE OF ELECTIONS

Judy Bridges, Idaho

TELLERS

Betty Rentfrow, Indiana
Doris Joubert, Massachusetts

CLERKS

Lorraine Bradwell, New York
Nancy Jensen, Kansas
Personal Page to Le Chapeau
National—Virginia Laird, New
Jersey
Aides to Le Chapeau National—
Dorothy Baxter, New Jersey;
Annabelle Quarino, New Jersey; Lee
Robotti, New Jersey
Personal Page to Secretaire—
Emily Miner, California

EMBLEM SALES

Lorene Berg, Alaska

MUSICIENNE

Phyllis Hardin, Washington

SOLOIST

Linda Jelnick, Missouri

**1996 LA MARCHE NATIONAL LOCAL
COMMITTEES**

Linda Turner, Chairman
Cheryl Jensen, Vice Chairman
Wanda North, La Secretaire-
Caissiere
Joyce Loveland and Jodi McFall,
Halls & Seating
Departmental Officers, Decorations
& Favors
Peg Illi, Displays
Dorothy Willey, Publicity
Dora Trowbridge, Lost & Found
Ellen Setterberger, Corsage Orders
Thelma Moriarty, Coordinator &
Chapeau Nationale Passe Luncheon
Dorothy Willey, Central Division
Caucus
Judy Daybell, Eastern Division
Caucus
Ruth Stromness, Northwestern
Division Caucus
Annette Simons, Southern Division
Caucus
Thelma Moriarty, Western Division
Caucus

AIDES

Mary Blaine, Le Chapeau Nationale
Cathy Olsen, L'Aumonier Nationale
Hazel Jones, L'Archiviste Nationale
Wanda North and Patty Rammell, La
Secretaire Nationale

25th Annual National Convention Sons Of The American Legion

ANNUAL REPORT



WELCOME to Salt Lake City and the 25th National Convention of the Sons of The American Legion.

No where else on earth is there an organization quite like The American Legion Family. Few, if any other organizations, can lay claim to having such a dramatic, consistent impact on the life of a nation. From the GI Bill of Rights, to Agent Orange, to citizenship education, to Children and Youth programs, the work of our Legion Family continues to touch the lives of so many Americans.

It is a tremendous record of service and a unique heritage. As Sons of The American Legion, we are indeed "Proud Possessors" of that priceless heritage. Our members seek to be part of the noble work of The American Legion. Every day in so many ways, in communities all across our nation, SAL members are getting involved in Legion programs and making a real difference in their communities. We are indeed "Still Serving America." With nearly 200,000 members nationwide, this organization is definitely a progressive and viable part of The American Legion Family.

1996 is a special year for the Sons of The American Legion. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of our National Organization. Although the SAL was originally established at The American Legion's 1932 National Convention in Portland, Oregon, the National Organization did not come into being until 1972.

Since that time, the SAL has experienced remarkable growth and achievement. Our membership is growing each year and with more than 185,000 members, 1996 marks another "All-Time High" for membership. Yearly, Sons contribute an average of \$250,000 and more than 20,000 hours for Veterans Rehabilitation. Since 1990, the Sons have been a major contributor to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation. In 1996, SAL members contributed more than \$116,000 to the Foundation, beating both the Legion and Auxiliary in dollars raised, making the SAL the largest single contributor this year. More and more SAL Squadrons are sponsoring students and providing counselors to Boys State Programs, operating Junior Shooting Club and providing much needed financial support to Legion Baseball teams.

Since 1932, the Sons have been partners with their parent organization in support of Legion programs and interests. Drawing on an increasingly older segment of the population, SAL members gradually became involved in more complex ways. Dual members, Sons who are also Legionnaires, were able to help both organizations achieve common goals. Within our ranks are professionals and community leaders who brought with them their expertise to help the SAL progress to new heights of dedication and community involvement.

The National and Detachment organizations of the SAL have become

clones of their parent organization. The effectiveness and overall execution of activities and policies mirror each other. That is what makes the Sons such a competent organization we build on the strengths of The American Legion.

In our world today, there is a definite need for an organization like the Sons of The American Legion. Turn on the television or radio, and news reports are filled with incidents of drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, gang violence, illiteracy and child abuse. These social ills deteriorate the fabric of our society and threaten the very foundations of our democracy. There is a need for an organization, such as the Sons, which can serve as role models for young Americans, and provide the kind of social, educational and recreational opportunities they so desperately need and so richly deserve. Working to preserve the kind of nation which our forbearers fought so hard to protect and defend is a task we take very seriously.

The continued support of every Legionnaire and Auxiliary member is essential for the SAL's continued success. I know I can count on you to provide that support. ■

Yours In Service to America,

JOHN T. DIETZ
National Commander

25th Annual National Convention Sons Of The American Legion Agenda

■ Salt Lake City Marriott Hotel
75 South West Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101
Aug. 30-Sept. 1, 1996



■ John T. Dietz
(Kentucky)
National
Commander



■ Woodrow L.
Mudge Jr.
(Colorado)
National Adjutant

FRIDAY,
AUGUST 30, 1996

**1:00PM REGISTRATION OF NATIONAL
CONVENTION DELEGATES AND
ALTERNATES BEGINS**

4:00PM PRE-CONVENTION NEC MEETING

Call To Order

John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Posting Of Colors

Invocation

Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

Pledge Of Allegiance

**Preamble To The Constitution Of
The Sons Of The American Legion**

**NOTE: Times of subsequent sessions
and times of Convention Committee
Reports are subject to change by the
Chair.**

Roll Call

Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant

Introduction Of Guests

Appointments Of Acting Officers

**Reading Of Minutes Of Previous
Meeting**

**Greetings By John Kerestan
National SAL Liaison**

Commission Reports

Legislative Commission
Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation
Public Relations Commission
Americanism Commission
Children And Youth Committee
Child Welfare Foundation
Community Affairs Committee
Education Committee
Internal Affairs Commission
Convention Committee
Membership Committee
Finance Commission
Sub-Committee On Resolutions

Old Business

New Business

For The Good Of The SAL

Final Announcements

Benediction

Retirement Of The Colors

Adjournment

5:00PM REGISTRATION CLOSES

**7:00PM 25TH ANNUAL NATIONAL
CONVENTION**

Opening Ceremony

Address Of Welcome
James A. Siverson (OR)
National Convention Committee
Chairman

**Parade Of States And Advancement
Of Detachment Colors**

**Introduction Of National
Commander And Posting Of
Commander's Squadron Standard**

Call To Order
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Posting Of The Colors
J. Q. Adams Squadron 233
Color Guard
Killeen, Texas

National Anthem

Invocation

Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

Pledge Of Allegiance

**Preamble To The Constitution Of
The Sons Of The American Legion**

POW/MIA Ceremony
J.Q. Adams Squadron 233
Color Guard
Killeen, Texas

Reading Of The Convention Call
Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant

Roll Call

Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant

**Introduction Of Past National
Commanders**

Opening Remarks
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

National Memorial Service
Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

**Presentation Of National
Membership Awards**
Kent Blanchard (OH)
National Membership Chairman

**Establishment Of Convention
Committees**

Salute To The Colors

Recess For Committee Meetings

(Note: During the Convention
sessions, various addresses will be
delivered.)

**9:00PM CONVENTION COMMITTEE
MEETINGS (APPROX.)**

10:00PM COMMITTEE MEETINGS RECESS

SATURDAY,
AUGUST 31, 1996

8:00AM DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE

25th Annual Nation Convention Sons of The American Legion Agenda

REGISTRATION OPENS; CONVENTION COMMITTEES RECONVENE

9:30AM 25TH NATIONAL CONVENTION RECONVENES

Call To Order
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Invocation
Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

Pledge Of Allegiance

Preamble To The Constitution Of
The Sons Of The American Legion

Roll Call
Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant

First Report Of Credentials
Committee

First Report Of Legislative And
Rules Committee

Standing Rules Of The National
Convention

Introduction Of The American
Legion Youth Award Winners

Presentation By NRA
Eddie Eagle

Presentation By The Citizens Flag
Alliance
Major General Patrick H. Brady

Child Welfare Foundation Awards
Jeff Sunday (MI)
Chairman, National Child Welfare
Foundation Committee

Legislative And Rules Committee
Report Conclusion

Legislation And Legislative
Priorities

Presentation Of Community Service
Scrapbook Award
Bruce F. Paquin (MD)
Chairman, National Community
Affairs Committee

Finance Committee Report

Internal Affairs Committee Report

National Americanism Awards
Mark Arneson
National Americanism
Commission Chairman

Constitution And By-Laws
Committee Report

Americanism Committee Report

Presentation Of National History
Contest Awards
Richard Marinari (MD)
National Historian

Roll Calls For Nominations Of
National Officers First Call

Recess

2:30PM AREA CAUCUSES (OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING RECESS)

3:00PM REGISTRATION CLOSES

4:00PM PARADE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1996

8:00AM REGISTRATION OPENS

8:30AM REGISTRATION CLOSES

Convention Reconvenes

Call To Order
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Salute To The Colors

Invocation
Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

Pledge Of Allegiance

Roll Call
Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
National Adjutant

Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation
Committee Report

Veterans Affairs And Rehabilitation
Commission Awards
Raymond Giehl
National VA&R Commission Chairman

Membership Committee Report

Presentation Of National
Commanders Citations
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Final Report Of The National
Commander
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

RECESS FOR JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

10:30AM JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

1:00PM CONVENTION RECONVENES

Call To Order
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

Salute To The Colors

Final Report Of Credentials
Committee

Special Order Of Business

Election Of National Commander

National Vice Commanders (5)

National Chaplain

Installation Of Newly Elected
National Officers

Benediction
Jeff Sunday (MI)
National Chaplain

Retirement Of Colors
New National SAL Color Guard
Champion

Final Adjournment
John T. Dietz (KY)
National Commander

3:00PM NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POST CONVENTION MEETING

Call To Order
Newly Elected National Commander

Salute To The Colors

Invocation
Newly Elected National Chaplain

Roll Call
National Adjutant

Confirmation Of Appointed National
Officers

Remarks By Committee And
Commission Chairmen

Unfinished Business

New Business

Benediction
Newly Elected National Chaplain

Salute To The Colors

Adjournment
Newly Elected National Commander

NATIONAL OFFICERS

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
(EAST)**
Charles W. Thran (NJ)

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
(SOUTH)**
John J. Crawford (FL)

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
(CENTRAL)**
George A. Lentz (IL)

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
(MIDWEST)**
Eldon Jones (WY)

**NATIONAL VICE COMMANDER
(WEST)**
Terry J. Gilbert (CA)

NATIONAL ASSISTANT ADJUTANTS
Thomas Milligan (MI)
Harold E. Thompson Jr. (NE)
Wendell Gordon (NM)

Kevin B. Proctor (CO)
William E. Matoska (MD)

NATIONAL CHAPLAIN
Jeff Sunday (MI)

NATIONAL HISTORIAN
Richard Marinari (MD)

NATIONAL JUDGE ADVOCATE
Joseph Paviglianti (NY)

NATIONAL SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Roy Turner (OH)

**NATIONAL ASSISTANT
SERGEANTS-AT-ARMS**
R. Mike Matteson (AZ)
Ron A. Timmerman (KY)
Harry M. Means (KY)
Joe Monti (MO)
Harry Randall (TX)

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AIDE
Kevin Miles (KY)

SAL PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

1968 Michael Seaton (CA)
1969 Robert McBride (OH)
1970 J.R. Stillwell (IL)
1971 J.R. Stillwell (IL)
1972 John Smolinsky (MA)
1973 Robert Faust (CA)
1974 James Hartman (MD)
1975 Gregory Reis (IL)
1976 Grant Jamieson (MI)
1977 Charles Gannon (MD)
1978 John M. Sherrard (CA)
1979 Richard Kepler (AZ)
1980 Ernest Wilson (NJ)
1981 Donald Willson (PA)
1982 David P. Stephens (IN)
1983 Christopher R. Cerullo (NY)
1984 Fred Hartline (OH)
1985 Woodrow L. Mudge Jr. (CO)
1986 Royce Doucet (LA)
1987 Douglas Bible (MN)
1988 Richard L. League (MD)
1989 David Faust (WI)
1990 Charles R. Belles (VA)
1991 Robert A. Worrel (IN)
1992 Eugene L. Sacco (CA)
1993 Charles Rigsby (MI)
(Deceased)
1994 Roland D. Matteson (AZ)
1995 Joseph M. Mayne (MN)



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Handling today's business issues can give an executive a splitting headache. For over 75 years, Geo. S. Olive has provided prescriptions to improve the wellness of The American Legion. We're more than a CPA firm. Much more. In addition to our audit, accounting and tax services, GSO offers extensive consulting services to help your business grow and stay strong.

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1996 ANNUAL REPORT

Covers Period Ending
June 1, 1996.

The following pages of this official program of the 78th Annual National Convention of The American Legion contain a condensed Annual Report for The American Legion 1995-96 year.

Believing that the delegates to the National Convention are entitled to receive a concise statement of the major activities of The American Legion year ending with this National Convention, your National Headquarters provides this report as a part of the official program. In this manner, we are assured that every delegate and every one who registers for the convention will receive the condensed Annual Report.

A full, detailed report has been submitted to the Congress of the United States in accordance with the Legion's congressionally granted charter and provisions of Public Law 249, 77th Congress, approved Sept. 18, 1941.

National Adjutant's Report

Legionnaires Excel in 'Work Worth Doing'

PRESIDENT Theodore Roosevelt, in remarks commemorating Labor Day in 1903, observed, "Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing."

We gather in Salt Lake City for the 78th National Convention to roll up our sleeves and engage in "work worth doing" for our nation. I am certain that we will ultimately translate our resolutions into public policy for the good of our great nation.

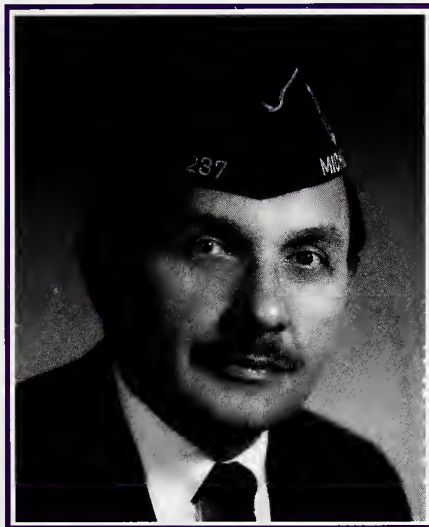
As we refine our policy agenda for the coming years, I remain mindful of the inherent reward of "Still Serving America" in The American Legion: working with so many dedicated men and women to support what is right for America.

Each National Convention, we rededicate ourselves to ideals of The American Legion. Those principles are supported by the four pillars of the organization: Americanism, child welfare, national security, and veterans affairs and rehabilitation. The American Legion has continued to have a profound impact on the nation for 78 years because Legionnaires are committed to maintaining the strength of those four pillars.

We have made tremendous strides in the last year because we have worked so hard at "work worth doing."

A mere three Senate votes thwarted congressional approval of a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from physical desecration. Considering a national poll indicates 80 percent of Americans support the measure, we can be optimistic that the 105th Congress will be more receptive. The will of the people to protect "Old Glory" will prevail on Capitol Hill, as it has in 49 state legislatures.

The American Legion seeks congressional approval of the "GI Bill of Health," a comprehensive plan to revamp the Veterans Administration health care system. This plan would open the VA health care system to more veterans and, for the first time, vet-



ROBERT W. SPANOGL
National Adjutant

erans' families. It would also pump more funding into the system through a managed-care program of copayments and deductibles. Without reform, the financially-strapped VA health care system will implode under the crushing demand for health care from aging veterans who, naturally, will be heavily reliant on the system.

The American Legion's outreach to sick Gulf War veterans continues. Gulf War-related illnesses are not products of service members' imaginations. The American Legion was first to challenge the government to provide care and find solutions. The American Legion will continue to press lawmakers and government leaders to provide Gulf War veterans the benefits they deserve. The American Legion recommended to Congress that the VA take three steps to improve service to Gulf War veterans who are suffering from illnesses they contracted in combat:

- Educate VA doctors about physical ill-

nesses that are misdiagnosed as psychological illnesses.

- Establish uniformity in how claims are adjudicated among VA Area Processing Centers.

- Make follow-up contacts to determine the needs of veterans whose claims were denied.

American Legion Service Officers continue to help sick Gulf War veterans trek through the VA's complicated claims process. Thousands of American Legion Family members volunteer in VA medical facilities to make sure older veterans know their comrades have not forgotten them. Other Legionnaires show their support of our younger veterans by pitching in their time and talent in fulfilling other needs.

The American Legion Family Support Network was reactivated to aid the families of those troops deployed to Bosnia. As it did for Desert Storm families, the Family Support Network found hometown assistance for hundreds of people. The Family Support Network continues to be successful because of volunteers doing "work worth doing."

These efforts, along with support for a strong national defense and for programs that benefit America's youngsters, represent the core values of The American Legion.

I am proud of you, and I am proud to be among you because of what The American Legion stands for. It's a privilege to perform "work worth doing" with so many dedicated men and women who are "Still Serving America."

ROBERT W. SPANOGL

National Adjutant

National Officers

THE AMERICAN Legion continues its commitment to serving the nation's veterans, their families, and all children. This commitment has served us well since 1919 when the veterans of World War I returned to American soil and formed what would become the world's largest veterans organization.

As the Legion convenes in Salt Lake City this year, delegates gather to conduct the vitally important business of this great organization. From this convention will come policies that will direct the 2.9 million volunteer members as they work to make their community—and our nation—better in the coming year.

The American Legion accomplishes its goals primarily at the grass-roots level, but with direction from the National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., and a major national office in Washington, D.C.

The Legion's chief executive officer is the National Commander, elected by delegates to the National Convention for a one-year term. The five National Vice Commanders are also chosen by the National Convention.

Daniel A. Ludwig of Red Wing, Minn., is the 1995-96 National Commander of The American Legion. The major accomplishments of the Legion during his term of office



DANIEL A. LUDWIG
(MN)
National Commander



ROBERT W. SPANOGLE
(MI)
National Adjutant

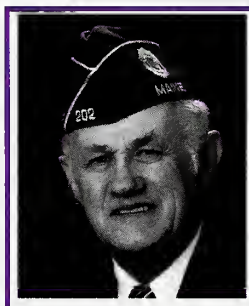
are represented in the following pages of this program and condensed annual report.

Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, is the chief administrative officer of The American Legion. He, along with the

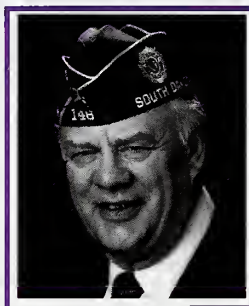
National Judge Advocate, National Treasurer, National Chaplain, National Historian and National Sergeant-at-Arms, comprise the appointed National Officers of The American Legion. ■



KEITH BAKER
(IA)
National Vice Commander



WILLIAM L. CICIOTTE
(ME)
National Vice Commander



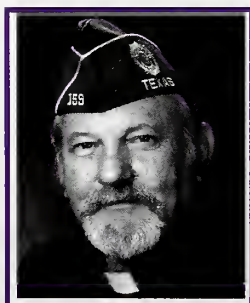
C. DARREL HASKELL
(SD)
National Vice Commander



RALPH J. REEL
(TN)
National Vice Commander



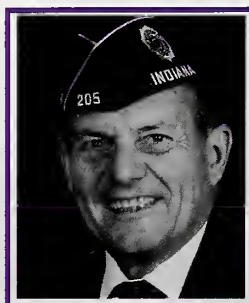
ROBERT D. SCOTT
(OR)
National Vice Commander



JOSEPH E. REYNOLDS
(TX)
National Chaplain



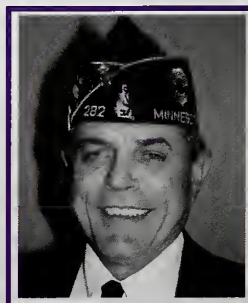
P.B. ONDERDONK JR.
(MD)
National Judge Advocate



WEBBER LAGRANGE
(IN)
National Treasurer



R. PAUL TENNEY
(VT)
National Historian



TOM SCHOTTENBAUER
(MN)
National Sergeant-at-Arms

The National Executive Committee

Between National Conventions, the administrative authority of The American Legion is exercised by the National Executive Committee, composed of the National Commander, the five National Vice Commanders, National Chaplain and one National Executive Committeeman (plus alternate) elected by each

Department. Past National Commanders are life members of the NEC but do not vote.

The NEC appoints the National Adjutant, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian and Sergeant-at-Arms. The NEC also has complete control over the annual budget.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMEN

Alabama	James F. Fraughnaugh
Alaska	William M. Bishop
Arizona	Richard H. Patton
Arkansas	Claude B. Carpenter
California	John J. Bettencourt

Colorado	Thomas L. Bock
Connecticut	Richard W. Anderson
Delaware	Ronald Pospichal
District of Columbia	Louis J. Glekas
Florida	George L. Derrick

France	Merwyn M. Beavers
Georgia	Horace E. Borders
Hawaii	LeRoy P. Pulawa
Idaho	Alan G. Lance
Illinois	Eugene Corum

Indiana	Gilbert E. Sheeks
Iowa	Wilford J. Huebner
Kansas	U.S. "Udie" Grant
Kentucky	Robert E. Stewart
Louisiana	J.O. Berthelot

Maine	Gard W. Enman
Maryland	Richard J. Santos
Massachusetts	Anthony J. Bicchieri Jr.
Mexico	John E. Hayes
Michigan	James L. Lane

Minnesota	Donald R. Schroedl
Mississippi	Hershel O. Ladner
Missouri	James F. Mareschal

Montana	Ralph D. Gardener
Nebraska	Jack O. Gilmont
Nevada	Archie Pozzi Jr.
New Hampshire	George V. West
New Jersey	Joseph F. Ward

New Mexico	Robert L. Crotzer
New York	William L. Brown
North Carolina	Jerry L. Hedrick
North Dakota	Aaron "Moody" Dalke
Ohio	Gerald L. Moore

Oklahoma	Lawrence F. Roy
Oregon	T. Les Galloway
Pennsylvania	Ronald F. Conley
Philippines	Ernesto P. Golez
Puerto Rico	Andres Rosario Bordonada

Rhode Island	Andrew R. Vanti
South Carolina	E. Roy Stone Jr.
South Dakota	Donavon R. Mason
Tennessee	John L. Jones
Texas	Lee Guy

Utah	W.E. Christoffersen
Vermont	Joseph F. Murphy
Virginia	Roger N. Messier
Washington	Robert W. Westphal
West Virginia	Jack T. Gribben

Wisconsin	Lloyd A. Wagener
Wyoming	Robert P. "Pat" McCreery

PAST NATIONAL COMMANDERS

E. Roy Stone Jr.	South Carolina
Erle Cocke Jr.	Georgia
J. Addington Wagner	Michigan
Preston J. Moore	Oklahoma
William R. Burke	California

Hon. Daniel F. Foley	Minnesota
Donald E. Johnson	Iowa
L. Eldon James	Virginia
William E. Galbraith	Nebraska
John H. Geiger	Illinois

Joe L. Matthews	Texas
James M. Wagonseller	Ohio
Harry G. Wiles	Kansas
William J. Rogers	Maine
John M. "Jack" Carey	Michigan

Frank I. Hamilton	Indiana
Michael J. Kogutok	New York
Jack W. Flynt	Texas
Al Keller Jr.	Illinois
Keith Kreul	Wisconsin


Clarence M. Bacon	Maryland
James P. Dean	Mississippi
John P. "Jake" Comer	Massachusetts
Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke	North Dakota
Miles S. Epling	West Virginia

Robert S. Turner	Georgia
Dominic D. DiFrancesco	Pennsylvania
Roger A. Munson	Ohio
Bruce Thiesen	California
William M. Detweiler	Louisiana



HELPING HAND—During a trip to Vietnam, National Commander Ludwig helps fit prosthetic devices to those affected by the Vietnam War.

National Commander Ludwig THE YEAR IN PICTURES

 *Historic votes and foreign journeys made certain this wasn't just another year for Daniel A. Ludwig, the Legion's top veteran.*



BOSNIA SERVICE—Clutching his MRE, Ludwig meets with American soldiers serving with the U.N. Implementation Force at an airstrip in the Balkans.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

STATE YOUR NAME—PNC John Geiger administers the oath of office to Ludwig at the 77th National Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. Ludwig solidified the Vietnam-era leadership of the Legion, becoming the fifth National Commander from that period.

FAMILY MAN—Ludwig's family was never far away during his tenure. Shown at the 1995 Convention are wife Mary, children John and Anna, sister Mary Sadlowsky, and her husband, Ronald.

SAL—Ludwig proved his commitment to young people with Sons of The American Legion, including a stop at Paul C. Beck Post 23 in Aurora, Colo., where he met with Scott Malouff and James McLamarrah.

FOR THE PEOPLE—Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., listens to Ludwig outline the Legion plan for a strong national defense. Thurmond serves on the Veterans' Affairs Committee and chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee.

FOR THE FLAG—Ludwig spent countless hours on Capitol Hill discussing issues of concern to the Legion's 2.9 million members. He and Minnesota NECman Don Schroedl meet with the Hon. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery about the flag-protection amendment. Shepherded by the congressman, the measure passed the House of Representatives by a wide margin.



YOUTH CHAMPIONS

The American Legion sponsors many programs to foster the wholesome development of America's youth. Tens of thousands of students compete in Legion-sponsored activities each year. Here are those who finished at the top of their programs.

BOYS NATION PRESIDENT KEM T. FOOTMAN

KEM T. FOOTMAN, 17, was elected this year's president after intense campaigning against other delegates at the Legion's 50th annual Boys Nation program, conducted in the Washington, D.C. area.

The high school junior was sponsored by Post 128 of Indianapolis, Ind. The son of Gwendolyn E. Footman, Kem excels both academically, as shown by a 3.75 GPA, and athletically at Lawrence Central High School. His skills on the track and the basketball court have led to some excellent scholarship prospects, though he expects to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.

Footman plans to study military law in college, going on to law school, becoming a judge, and perhaps one day serving in the House of Representatives.



EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR GRANT E. GARRIGUES

GRANT E. GARRIGUES, 17, is this year's recipient of The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year award, which comes complete with an \$8,000 scholarship for college. Garrigues, affiliated with City Service Post 537 in San Diego, Calif., has a long history of involvement with the Legion, as both his father and grandfather are active members.

Grant enters his senior year with many accolades already accumulated. His involvement in school activities is immense, ranging from varsity letters in swimming and water polo, to being head of his school's Roman club. He currently serves as junior assistant scoutmaster of Troop 500. In his six years as a scout he has earned numerous awards, held several different leadership positions for his troop and was selected for membership into the Order of the Arrow.

The son of Maxine and Ned Garrigues, Grant is considering his options for both college and career.

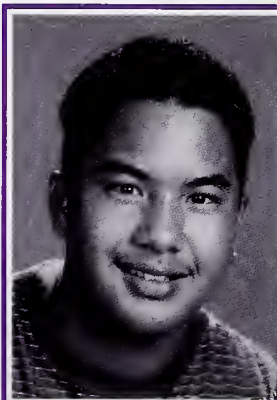


1995 AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR JASON ADARO

JASON ADARO, 19, was the 1995 American Legion Baseball Player of the Year. Jason pitched a four-hitter in leading his team to a 2-0 victory in the World Series championship game.

During his outstanding 4-0 post-season record he achieved a 0.90 ERA, allowing only 10 hits in 30 innings pitched while striking out 23 batters. On the offensive side, personally earning 29 bases helped him get the Rawlings Big Stick award. He batted .488 overall, earning the Louisville Slugger award. When not pitching, Jason played first base.

Jason, the son of Dale and Lynn Adaro, recently transferred out of Mission College in Hawaii. He currently attends Leeward Community College, where he is studying to become a fire fighter.



ORATORICAL CHAMPION KALEEN E. LOVE

KALEEN E. LOVE, 17, is the winner of the 1996 American Legion National High School Oratorical Contest. Love, sponsored by Apache Junction Post 137 in Arizona, earned \$18,000 in scholarship prizes for her efforts at the finals in Topeka, Kan., earlier this year. In a speech entitled, "We the People," Love discussed the United States Constitution. The nationwide contest, now in its 59th year, was created to promote a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the U.S. Constitution among America's youth.

No stranger to public speaking, Love was secretary of the Speech and Debate Team at Mountain View High School. The daughter of Richard and Fran Love began attending the University of Arizona this month, where she is studying politics and international law.



JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS CHAMPION KATHERINE DELGROSSO

KATHERINE MICHELLE DELGROSSO, 17, is the Precision category winner of the 1996 Junior Air Rifle National Championship. DelGrosso, who was sponsored by Mill City/Gates Post 159 of Gates, Ore., competed against 11 other shooters earlier this month in the finals of the Junior Shooting Sports competition.

The competition is divided into Precision and Sporter categories. Shooters in both classes aim for a bulls-eye the size of a pencil point from a distance of 10 meters.

In addition to her shooting prowess, the senior from North Salem (Ore.) High School, participates in both academic and athletic activities, including National Honor Society, track, cross-country running, marching band and symphonic band.



1996 OUTSTANDING MILITARY ACADEMY STUDENTS

The American Legion salutes the best students attending the nation's military academies.

Clockwise from right:

AIRMAN—Cadet George N. Schwartz has been named Top Academic Performer at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. The American Legion's National Vice Commander Robert D. Scott (OR) and Brig. Gen. Robert F. McDermott, USAF, retired, present the Legion award for academic excellence.

SAILOR—National Vice Commander Ralph J. Reel (TN) presents Midshipman First Class Jean-Paul Chretien with the Legion's U.S. Naval Academy award at Annapolis, Md. The honor is bestowed annually on the graduating midshipman who has the highest academic average in the English, history and government courses taken to complete a foreign affairs major.

SOLDIER—National Vice Commander Keith Baker (IA) presents Cadet Thomas E. Novak with the Legion's U.S. Military Academy award at West Point, N.Y. Novak won the award for excellence in chemistry.

COAST GUARDSMAN—National Vice Commander William L. Ciciotte (ME) presents The American Legion Coast Guard Academy award to Cadet Drew Orsinger at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn. Orsinger won the award for overall excellence in athletics.

MERCHANT MARINE—National Vice Commander C. Darrel Haskell (SD) presents Midshipman Robert L. Norton with the Legion's U.S. Merchant Marine Academy award in Kings Point, N.Y. The award is given for overall excellence in the Color Guard of the Academy.

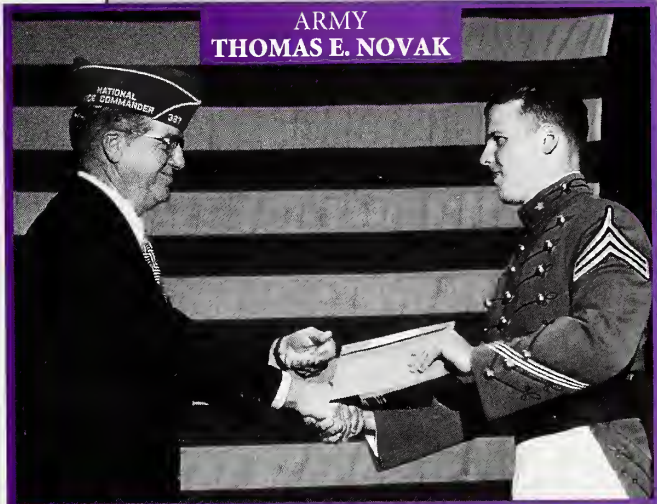
AIR FORCE
GEORGE N. SCHWARTZ



NAVY
JEAN-PAUL
CHRETIEN



ARMY
THOMAS E. NOVAK



MERCHANT MARINE
ROBERT L. NORTON



COAST GUARD
DREW ORSINGER



The American Legion

1996 Annual Report Commission & Committee Reports

Americanism

COMMISSION



Joseph E. Caouette Jr.
(New Hampshire)
Chairman

Marty Justis
(Maryland)
Director

AMERICANISM is an unflinching love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideals, and an eagerness to defend it against all enemies. It is also individual allegiance to the Flag, and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.

Our forefathers laid the foundation for a civilization that is the envy of the whole world. This is our heritage. It is a challenge. It is our responsibility, our duty to improve it and guard it. The hundreds of thousands of volunteers throughout the organization freely accept these challenges, responsibilities and duties by donating time and money to conduct the various programs of the National Americanism Commission.

These programs give recognition to the ideal of human values and the dignity and worth of the individual. Americanism activities embrace many phases of an individual's relationship to his community, state and nation. An effective Americanism program thrives at the Post level on activities which are community-oriented. These local Americanism programs become the lifeblood of The American Legion, helping to maintain a large membership base while fostering a beneficial public awareness in their respective communities.

The accomplishments of The American Legion's Americanism programs are evidenced by their longevity and in the numerous accomplishments of program alumni. Some of these successes are obvious, many more are disguised in the quiet and inconspicuous growth of young people who respect each other and their country. These activities have helped mold the moral

qualities of our society since the beginning of The American Legion 77 years ago.

In addition to administering established programs, the National Americanism Commission maintains close liaison with The American Legion's Legislative Division. These efforts continue to be actively focused toward securing a constitutional amendment to protect our flag from those who would physically desecrate it. Flag education, including these efforts to protect it, will always be a discernible program in the organization.

During the past year, the Americanism Commission has devoted attention to federal legislative matters it believes are significant to most Americans. Current mandates of the organization, ones of principal interest to the Commission, continue to be in the areas of illegal immigration, terrorism and the establishment of English as the official language of the United States.

The Americanism Commission is also charged with the supervision and coordination of two National Standing Committees: the National Committee on Education and the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee.

The many Americanism programs are designed to create improved living for every individual, recognizing all of the inalienable rights of mankind and the human qualities of mind and heart.

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL

AMERICAN Legion Baseball is considered by many to be the premier youth baseball program in the nation. The baseball program owes its success to the hard work and dedication of American Legion Posts and individual Legionnaires who promote this character-building exercise in teamwork. Prior to this National Convention, eight regional championship teams competed in the 1996 American Legion Baseball World Series in Roseburg, Ore.

Sixty-two percent of Major League Baseball players participated in American Legion Baseball as teenagers, and almost 75 percent

of all college players played Legion ball. American Legion graduates enshrined in the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, N.Y. include Reggie Jackson, Tom Seaver, Johnny Bench, Don Drysdale, Brooks Robinson, Yogi Berra, Stan Musial and Bob Feller.

BOYS STATE/ BOYS NATION

AMERICAN Legion Boys State is a program of experience and education for high school juniors. It is, in effect, a government unit in which each boy participates in the operation of local, county and state government.

Boys State has been a program of the National Americanism Commission since 1935. Forty-nine states conduct this unique program of citizenship education that emphasizes participation, personal experience and instruction.

Through this program, more than 1.5 million young Americans have been introduced to the political system of our country and to public service. More than 28,000 high school juniors annually attend Boys States. They are selected cooperatively by school officials and Legionnaires for their academic and leadership abilities. At Boys State, they become familiar with the rights and privileges, the duties and responsibilities which citizenship entails. The training is objective and practical with city, county and state governments operated by officials duly elected and appointed by citizens of a Boys State. Activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies and recreation periods.

In July 1996, The American Legion celebrated the 50th anniversary of Boys Nation, conducted in Washington, D.C. Each year, the Boys States select two outstanding graduates to represent them at Boys Nation.

Boys Nation also emphasizes citizenship education but is focused on the study of the federal government and its supporting agencies. Organization of political parties, conventions, and the nomination and election of a president of Boys Nation all provide practical experience in politics and the administration of a republic.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS

THIS national activity, administered through Post-sponsored Junior Shooting Clubs, continues to experience tremendous growth. The program provides gun safety and marksmanship training for young people and offers recreational activity through organized competition.

Just prior to this National Convention, The American Legion National Junior Position Air Rifle tournament took place at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. Twenty-four competitors vied for awards and scholarships in the tournament. The National tournament is the culmination of a series of Post-level matches conducted by the National Americanism Commission. This year's competition attracted 789 shooters, reflecting another increase in participation.

BOY SCOUTS

THE American Legion's support of Scouting has remained steady with local Posts and Auxiliary Units chartering 2,400 Scouting units, serving 73,000 young men and women. (Yes, Boy Scout Exploring Units do have young ladies as members.)

Scouting was the first national Americanism youth activity of The American Legion. Over the years, Legion and Auxiliary support of Scouting has helped hundreds of thousands of young men become better citizens.

Each year, the National Americanism Commission selects The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. The recipient of this award is presented an \$8,000 scholarship and an all-expense-paid trip to the National Convention. The 1996 Eagle Scout of the Year is Grant E. Garrigues of California. Three runners-up were awarded \$2,000 scholarships each. The young men selected were Sandar J. Laan of Georgia, Timothy S. MacLaughlin of Virginia, and Michael E. Paulhus of Louisiana.

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ORATORICAL CONTEST

BEGUN in 1938, the National High School Oratorical Contest continues to instill in high school students a greater understanding and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States. High school students who are citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States are encouraged to participate in the Oratorical Contest.

On April 15, 1996, 53 Department champions began the week-long trail to the 59th annual finals at Topeka, Kan., where the final four contestants vied for \$60,000 in

scholarship money. The four national finalists by order of finish were: Kaleen Love of Arizona; Lina Shah of New York; Joseph Reske of Texas; and Marie Tornberg of South Dakota.

Those who competed at the regional level received a scholarship of \$1,000. Those who competed at the sectional level but did not advance to the finals received an additional \$3,000 scholarship. During the week of national competition, \$138,000 in scholarships were awarded.

Next year's national finals will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., April 11-13, under a new three-round contest format.

FLAG EDUCATION

THE American Legion's reputation as one of the country's foremost sources of flag education and etiquette information remains a strong one. Legionnaires were instrumental in convening the first National Flag Conference in 1923, when they developed a set of flag courtesy rules. These rules later evolved into the Flag Code, first adopted by Congress in 1942 in the early phase of U.S. involvement in World War II.

Flag education has always been a major program of the National Americanism Commission and The American Legion. Posts throughout the nation donate numerous flags and distribute volumes of flag literature to schools and groups as a community service. Included are publications such as *Know Your America* and *Let's be Right on Flag Etiquette*, both available from National Emblem Sales.

SERVICE TO GOD AND COUNTRY

BASIC Americanism is expressed through The American Legion's Service to God and Country program. It is designed to help prevent the spiritual decay of America and to charge our citizens with a spirit of positive Americanism characterized by a respect for law and authority and an awareness of our human rights and freedoms.

The first part of this dual objective is service to God through regular public worship, daily family prayer and the religious education of children. Legionnaires are called upon to make parents increasingly aware of their responsibility to instill in their children the belief that God is the source of all rights and privileges.

The second part is to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation by preparing young Americans to take up tomorrow's responsibilities. This is achieved by teaching them moral and spiritual values, interest in our country's history, self-discipline and reliance, thrift, and the ideals of loyalty, honesty and physical fitness.

Coordinating this program is the Post

Chaplain, through the cooperation of local clergy and other public service and civic organizations that support this important program.

Counter-Subversive Activities

COMMITTEE

F. Rodney Loper
(Pennsylvania)
Chairman

CONTINUING as it has for the past 46 years, the Counter-Subversive Activities Committee keeps a watchful eye on activities of certain individuals and organizations who threaten our form of government. Findings are reported in the monthly publication, *Firing Line*.

If you wish to receive *Firing Line*, send your name and address along with a check or money order to: The American Legion Firing Line, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206. Single subscriptions are available for \$7 annually. Bulk subscriptions, in which at least 20 copies are mailed to a single address, are available for \$1.50 each.

COMMITTEE ON

Education

Dr. Charles L. Vawter Jr.
(Arizona)
Chairman

EDUICATION is the cornerstone upon which rests this nation's future. Where there are good schools we find good citizens. In fact, education is the first requisite of good citizenship.

The relationship of The American Legion to the schools of America is that of a friendly and firm supporter of free education as a means of keeping and improving free civilization. Over the years, The American Legion at all levels has, through a cooperative working relationship, encouraged its membership to keep abreast of the many changes required to maintain a good school system. Support has been provided to secure adequate funds for school construction, teachers' salaries and a variety of resources to assist students to continue with their education.

The Committee on Education was organized to maintain a strong positive influence on education in America. It is the only national committee with a voting membership from both the Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. This exemplifies the cooperation necessary and vital to successful programs and activities that support the educational system of America.

THE SAMSUNG/ AMERICAN LEGION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

THE Samsung Group, the South Korea-based international electronics company, endowed a scholarship fund in 1995 of \$5 million to be administered by The American Legion. The endowment was made to show appreciation to U.S. veterans who came to the aid of South Korea during its struggle against communist forces during the Korean War.

In less than a month, the National Committee on Education will be selecting from the National finalists 10 high school students who will receive \$30,000 scholarships. Additionally, those National finalists who are not selected to receive the primary scholarship will receive a \$500 scholarship for their accomplishments in being designated a Samsung/American Legion Scholarship National Finalist.

NEED A LIFT?

THE 46th edition of *Need a Lift?* continues the tradition of providing extensive information about institutions of higher education that can make college a reality for many high school graduates. In addition to sections on scholarships and financial aid, it offers information on tuition costs, entrance qualifications and enrollment figures.

Need A Lift? also contains an application for a low-cost electronic search for other sources of college funding. Additionally this financial-aid database is still available to Posts. The American Legion and National College Services Ltd. are the distributors. Posts can purchase this program and provide the scholarship service to the youth of their community or present it to the local high school or community library.

OPTION 4 EDUCATION LOAN

THE National Committee on Education is acutely aware that many students are accepted to college but do not have the resources to meet their full financial need. Because of this, The American Legion continues to be a sponsor of the Option 4 Education Loan, administered by United Student Funds, Inc. Complete details of the loan program are available from the Americanism and Children & Youth Division, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206; or USA Funds, P.O. Box 6180, Indianapolis, IN 46206-6180.

SUMMARY

WHAT appears in this year-end report reflects only a small part of the work carried out by The American Legion's National Americanism Commission. Much more time, effort and money are expended by Posts, Districts and Departments as they accept the challenges of sponsoring and conducting Americanism activities that feature wide-ranging community service, youth development, educational advancement and counter-subversive activities. ■

Administrative

S E R V I C E S

■ **Daniel S. Wheeler**
(Virginia)
Executive Director

THREE major responsibilities are assigned to the Executive Director, whose office is located in the National Headquarters, Indianapolis:

- During temporary absences of the National Adjutant from The American Legion National Headquarters, he acts in his stead. He additionally performs such duties as may be assigned to him by the National Adjutant to assist in meeting the responsibilities of that office.

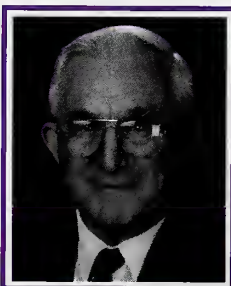
- He is in charge of the Administrative Services Division, which has the following divisions under that responsibility: Administrative Communications, Human Resources, Maintenance, Cafeteria, Library, and the E.A. Blackmore Museum.

- He serves on the Personnel Committee, Publications Board, HPC/PM Board of Directors, and the MIS Committee.

The Administrative Services Division also provides all secretarial assistance to the executive officers of The American Legion. ■

COMMISSION ON

Children & Youth



■ **Elmer Fuhrhop**
(Ohio)
Chairman

Marty Justis
(Maryland)
Director

THE National Commission on Children & Youth views children as our most precious natural resource. The "Whole Child" plan, adopted in 1925, provides that "the child of every veteran should have a home, health, education, character and opportunity." Its foundation

is based on three principles:

- Strengthening the family unit.
- Extending support to sound organizations that provide services to children and youth.

- Maintaining a well-rounded program that meets the needs of today's young people.

Toward the accomplishment of these goals, the National Commission on Children & Youth continually rededicates itself to helping all young people realize their full potential.

Our landmark program, Temporary Financial Assistance, has completed 71 years of service to veterans' children. Last year we granted almost \$261,242 to veterans' families and touched the lives of 1,201 children. These precious dollars afforded 536 families food, clothing and shelter, thus preserving the integrity of the family.

A successful press conference took place April 1, 1996, in Washington, D.C. to announce The American Legion/McGruff Safe Kids Program. More than 60 people attended, including several major media sources.

Together with the National Crime Prevention Council, our goal is to provide every child, age 4-12, with The American Legion Edition/McGruff Safe Kids I.D. Kit within the next five years. This equates to over 4 million children in just the first year. In addition to providing safety information to children and their parents, this program is designed to increase public awareness about The American Legion and its youth programs and activities, enhance our community image and provide another mechanism to recruit new Legion members.

Based on our past successful partnership with the Foundation Fighting Blindness, we continued our program called "Vision for the Future." This program, conducted in April—our Children and Youth Month—gave our members the opportunity to make their communities more aware of the many fine programs conducted by The American Legion family. Through our combined efforts, we created a positive public image for our organization and provided valuable information on retinal degenerative diseases.

We continue to strive to have National Family Week, by legislation, permanently established as an annual observance and emphasize, by education through Post activity, the importance of the family unit as the cornerstone of our society.

The American Legion's immunization efforts began in 1944, when we recruited our members in the fight for treatment of early-childhood diseases. Our current position on immunization for kids was established in 1963 and has been consistently reaffirmed. Through the continued distribution of our booklet, *Don't Hesitate...Vaccinate!*, we can help our children avoid serious health problems, thus allowing them the

opportunity to reach their full potential.

The growing problem of youth and violence is a concern affecting all Americans—not just our young people—and may well be the No. 1 issue on the criminal justice agenda. While youth violence is not a new problem, the intensity of violence involving young people has escalated in the last decade, and children are witnessing violence at ever-younger ages.

Since the 1930s, The American Legion has been concerned with juvenile delinquency and youth violence. Last year, the Commission continued distribution of a brochure titled "Juvenile Delinquency Prevention" to help educate both our members and the public, and provide suggestions on how they may deal with this pressing and volatile issue in their communities.

The Commission is proud of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of The American Legion and the Eight and Forty for their accomplishments on behalf of our country's youth. Their efforts in the area of child welfare are living testament to the ability of free men and women to adapt themselves to evolving needs while maintaining high principles and taking on increased responsibilities under those principles.

With your continued support, our organization will continue to lead the way in our pursuit of "A Square Deal for Every Child." ■

Convention COMMISSION



■ **James J. Charleston**
(Illinois)
Chairman
Richard D. Holmes
(Indiana)
Director

THE 77th annual National Convention of The American Legion took place in Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 29–Sept. 6, 1995.

National Commander William M. Detweiler (Louisiana) gave the opening session to order at 9 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 4. The theme of the entire convention, "A Commemoration of World War II" began with the presentation of "Memories of the War." The opening was so good that earlier this year it captured top honors in the 1996 Telly Awards, awarded to the National Public Relations Division for outstanding commercials and programming outside network and cable television.

Following the opening, welcome addresses were given by the Hon. Richard Lugar, R-Ind., U.S. Senator; the Hon. Evan Bayh, Governor of Indiana; and the Hon. Stephen Goldsmith, Mayor of Indianapolis.

At noon on Monday, an address was given by the Hon. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., U.S. Senate Majority Leader.

Also addressing the Convention were the Hon. Gerald B. Solomon, R-N.Y., chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Rules Committee; the Hon. G. V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss., Minority Chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Veterans Committee; and Ike Pappas, president of Ike Pappas Network Productions.

Tuesday's session began with the continuation of The World War II Commemoration, "The Home Front," which was followed by an address by the Hon. Jesse Brown, Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Also addressing the session were the Hon. Richard W. Riley, Secretary of Education, and the Hon. Bob Stump, R-Ariz., chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Veterans Affairs Committee. A highlight of the session was the presentation of The American Legion Distinguished Service Award by National Commander Detweiler to Brig. Gen. Paul W. Tibbets, USAF (Ret.), pilot of the *Enola Gay*.

The final session of the Convention began on Wednesday with the World War II Commemoration, "Thank You." This was followed with an address by Army Gen. John M. Shalikashvili, chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Hon. Benjamin A. Gilman, R-N.Y., chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives International Relations Committee, also addressed the Convention. Upon completion of all business, the delegates elected Daniel A. Ludwig of Minnesota as their new National Commander.

The theme of the Convention, "World War II Commemorated," was evident in many of the convention activities. A film festival sponsored by the History Channel and the Military Channel ran continuously in the Indiana Convention Center from Friday through Monday, featuring documentaries and vintage newsreels. Also, World War II commemorative items were sold.

On Saturday morning, the Convention Band and Color Guard Contests took place. The American Legion Band Contest was conducted in the beautiful Circle Theatre, home of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra. Emerging as The American Legion Championship Band was The Band of the Tonawandas, Post 264, Tonawanda, N.Y. The Greater Kansas City American Legion Band was recognized for its participation in 45 consecutive band contests.

The Color Guard Contest took place in the Indianapolis Convention Center. For the third consecutive year, the Honor Guard from Speedway Post 500, Speedway, Ind., emerged as National Champion.

On Sunday morning, thousands of Legionnaires and their guests attended the Patriotic Memorial Service in the Convention Center. Special memorial wreaths were presented in a tribute to World War II veterans.

On Monday evening, the National Commander's Banquet for Distinguished Guests took place in the Sagamore Ballroom of the Indiana Convention Center. Approximately 1,900 attendees enjoyed a dinner-dance featuring Nancy Hays and the Bobby Benson Orchestra with big-band sounds of the '40s.

CONVENTION COMMISSION ACTIVITIES

THE Convention Commission conducted three regular meetings during the year. A sub-committee was appointed to revise the guidelines for potential convention cities.

This committee met in Indianapolis in November and, as a result, members of the Commission approved by a mail vote a new set of guidelines, which was implemented immediately. Also, guidelines for National Convention Corporations were reviewed and revised and a new manual for Convention Commission members was written. It is expected that these documents will be completed and approved by the Commission in the near future.

At the Spring Meeting, Commission members recommended to the National Executive Committee that Milwaukee, Wis., be given the tentative award for the National Convention for the dates Sept. 1-7, 2000. The recommendation was approved by the NEC.

Planning for the 1996 Salt Lake City Convention is in the final stages. A large attendance is expected and a great convention is anticipated. Dates and locations for future conventions are:

Orlando, Fla.	Aug. 29-Sept. 4, 1997
New Orleans, La.	Sept. 4-10, 1998
Anaheim, Calif.	Sept. 3-9, 1999
Milwaukee, Wis.	Sept. 1-7, 2000*

* Tentative

Distinguished Guests COMMITTEE

■ **Jeffrey L. Olson**
(Minnesota)
Chairman

THE Distinguished Guests Committee operates under the umbrella of the Convention Commission and is directed to assume the responsibility of coordinating the activities of those persons invited to attend the National Convention as Distinguished Guests.

The Committee arranges arrival and departure transportation requirements at the convention city. The committee also handles credentials, agendas, itineraries and other details of the convention. ■

CONDENSED REPORT ON

National Emblem
Sales Division

■ **Keith H. Gwilliam**
(Utah)
Chairman

Jeffrey O. Brown
(Indiana)
Director

THE American Legion emblem is the exclusive property of the National Headquarters. The sale of the emblem, emblem pins, merchandise carrying the emblem and other items of organizational equipment is the responsibility of the National Headquarters in Indianapolis. The following tables show gross sales, net earnings, etc., for the entire calendar year 1995 and for the first three months of 1996.

Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 1995

(12 months)

Gross Sales	\$6,575,638
Cost of Goods Sold	\$3,931,704
Overhead	\$2,089,876
Operating Profit	\$554,058

Total number of 1995 orders processed was 66,896.

Jan. 1 to March 31, 1996

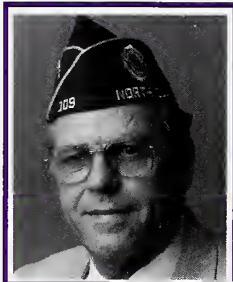
(3 months)

Gross Sales	\$1,491,355
Cost of Goods Sold	\$821,986
Overhead	\$482,378
Operating Profit	\$186,991

Total orders processed for first 3 months of 1996 was 15,452. ■

Economic

COMMISSION



■ **Ray G. Smith**
(North Carolina)
Chairman

James B. Hubbard
(Michigan)
Director

THE National Economic Commission

and its two standing committees on Employment and Veterans' Preference are responsible for ensuring that America's veterans have the opportunity to provide, with honor and dignity, the economic necessities of life for themselves and their families. To achieve this goal the commission and its committees work closely with such governmental agencies as the Department of Labor, the Office of Personnel Management, the Small Business

Administration and the Loan Guaranty and Vocational Rehabilitation services of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Since the adjournment of the 77th National Convention in Indianapolis, the National Economic Commission and its committees have met on three occasions.

FALL 1995 NEC
MEETING

AN executive session of the National Economic Commission met in Room 204 of the National Headquarters on Oct. 16-17, 1995, to consider resolutions and to conduct other business as warranted. Eight resolutions were considered by the National Commission, with two recommended for approval. The other six were recommended to be received and recorded.

Res. 12, recommended for approval, rescinded obsolete policy resolutions dating from 1980 to 1994. Res. 26, also recommended for approval, concerned recognition by civilian licensing agencies of training provided by the armed forces.

The National Executive Committee accepted all the commission's recommendations.

1996 WASHINGTON
CONFERENCE

IN conjunction with the 36th Washington Conference, the National Economic Commission met in executive session Monday, April 1, to hear six speakers on the subject of veterans' preference.

The first speaker was James King, Director of the Office of Personnel Management, who asserted that this administration considers veterans' preference a high priority, and that articles like the one in the January 1996 issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE are valuable as warnings that OPM may not be succeeding in its enforcement of veterans' preference.

The second speaker was Preston Taylor, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, who described the procedure a veteran should follow to obtain redress in cases where he or she believes his/her veterans' preference or veterans' re-employment rights have been violated by either a government employer or a private employer.

Harry C. Redd III, senior staff analyst at the Merit Systems Protection Board, spoke on the need to improve the process by which veterans get hired, not just considered for hiring, by the federal government.

George Nesterzuk, staff director of the House Subcommittee on Civil Service, spoke concerning employment opportunities for veterans in government, both now and in the future. He said total employment opportunities in federal government are

decreasing, although a few agencies are increasing in size.

Rick Weidman and Gerard C. Kahn, president and vice president of the Veterans Economic Action Coalition, reminded the audience that veterans' preference is the law, specifically, Title 5, United States Code. Both men asserted that veterans' preference violations and concerns need to be aired on the front pages of the nation's newspapers.

Prior to the Washington Conference, the chairman of the National Economic Commission appointed a subcommittee to review all the nominations that had been received during 1995 in the Employer of the Year awards program, and in the Employment Service awards program. This subcommittee met April 1 to select winners in the large, medium and small employer categories, and in the LVER, DVOP and Employment Service Office of the Year categories.

Those appointed to the subcommittee were James A. McMahon (Maine), Chairman; Henry J. Field (South Carolina); William E. Christoffersen (Utah); Leonard E. Shaw (Iowa); Wayne Slade (South Dakota); and Benedict A. Lee (New Jersey).

The subcommittee considered 47 employer nominations from 26 Departments. Of these nominations, 16 were for small employers, 14 were for employers in the medium size category, and 17 were for large employers. Of these entries, seven large, five medium and two small employers were, for one reason or another, ineligible for the national awards. Winners and runners-up were chosen in all three categories and will be reviewed by the Labor Department for pending safety and health or fair labor practices violations before announcement is made.

The subcommittee also considered 19 nominations for LVER of the Year, 20 for DVOP of the Year and 16 for Employment Service Office of the year. Winners were chosen in all categories.

The whole commission met at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, April 3, to conduct a business session and consider the awards subcommittee's report. The report was approved as read. Recommendations were presented to the commission concerning its memorial fund. The recommendations were adopted as presented. The commission came to a consensus that, based upon the information presented on Monday, The American Legion needs one or more new, stronger resolutions concerning veterans' preference, and is determined to develop one or more in time for the May meetings. The commission's professional staff, James Hubbard, Director; Emil Naschinski, Assistant Director; and Donna Jaffe, Awards Program Administrator, briefed the commission on the office's activities during the time since its last meeting.

SPRING 1996 NEC MEETING

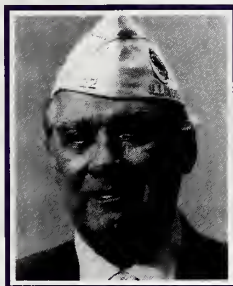
MEMBERS of the National Economic Commission and its two committees met in executive session April 29-30 to consider two resolutions for action by the National Executive Committee, which later approved Res. 1, Veterans' Preference Reform, and Res. 2, Participation in the Veterans' Organization Homeless Council. Register Res. 2392, originating in Pennsylvania and entitled Urban Employment Initiatives, was recommended for rejection.

Staff briefed the commission on a trial of job fairs at two American Legion Department conventions. If these two pilot projects are successful, the concept will be pitched to the Department Commanders and Adjutants during their fall conference with the idea of replicating the job fairs at other Department conventions.

The NEC accepted the commission's recommendation for all the resolutions. ■

Finance

COMMISSION



George W. Boucek
(Illinois)
Chairman

Webber LaGrange
(Indiana)
National
Treasurer

Paul M. Allen
(Minnesota)
Director

THE primary obligation of the Finance Commission is to prepare a yearly budget for submission to the National Executive Committee, handle funds under that budget, and exercise reasonable oversight to see that the various divisions and Departments of the national organization operate within their approved appropriations.

The Finance Commission comprises seven members, with the National Adjutant as ex-officio secretary, and the National Commander and National Treasurer as ex-officio members. Also attending these meetings are the Executive Directors of the Washington and Indianapolis offices and the Finance Director, as well as our liaison observers from the National Executive Committee.

The national organization had an operating surplus of \$4,021,555 for the year 1995. In 1995, we received \$9 dues per member, allocated as follows: \$6.50 to the General Fund and \$2.50 to THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

The income of the national organization is derived from annual membership dues,

interest on investments, magazine advertisements, Emblem Sales, contributions, and other approved activities.

A full financial statement is incorporated in the auditor's report, and in addition, your attention is directed to the Reports of Committees and Trusts which come under the jurisdiction of this Commission and can be found elsewhere in this publication.

These reports include the:

- American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc.
- American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation
- American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Committee
- American Legion Emblem Committee
- American Legion Overseas Graves Decoration Trust

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Child Welfare

FOUNDATION INC.

■ U.S. "Udie" Grant
(Kansas)
President

THIS has been a great year for the Foundation because of the efforts put forth by many of you around the country. As of this writing, since June 1, 1995 the Foundation has received more than \$310,000 in the form of donations or bequests. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all that have made this contribution year a success.

I would also like to extend a special thanks to the Sons of The American Legion as they once again went all out and provided more than \$100,000 of this total figure. For an organization of 180,000 members, that is a tremendous accomplishment.

In October 1995, your Board of Directors approved grants to 12 non-profit organizations in the amount of \$283,050 for projects to be completed in calendar year 1996. The organizations and amounts are as follows:

Adam Walsh Center of Orange, Calif.—\$16,200, The Association for Bladder Exstrophy Children of San Antonio, Texas—\$30,000, The Easter Seal Rehabilitation Center of Uncasville, Conn.—\$22,200, The Friends Network of Santa Barbara, Calif.—\$15,000, The Guardians of Hydrocephalus Foundation of Brooklyn, N.Y.—\$35,750, Mercy Medical Airlift of Reston, Va.—\$15,000, The National Jewish Center for Immunology and Respiratory Medicine of Denver, Colo.—\$32,900, The National Rifle Association of Fairfax, Va.—\$25,000, Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation of Tampa, Fla.—\$26,000, Project Oz of Bloomington, Ill.—\$25,500, The Sturge Weber Foundation of Mt. Freedom, N.J.—\$24,700, and The Treacher Collins Foundation of Norwich, Vt.—\$14,800.

You might also be interested to know that the gene causing the Treacher Collins affliction was discovered this year, giving hope of successful treatment in the very near future. That type of information is always exciting news to share.

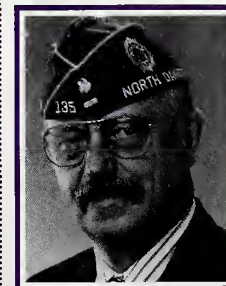
Our new logo is being dispersed around the country and we are receiving many compliments on its design. It is now appearing on printed materials as well as videos that have been produced resulting from grants given by the Foundation. You, your Post, Unit, Squadron and Salon are the primary contributors to the success and growth of our foundation. We consider ourselves a "family" organization, and we always want that to be foremost in our efforts. We encourage each member and each local organization to make an annual contribution in support of our foundation so it can continue to fund projects that will give children a better chance in life.

The demand for philanthropic funds becomes greater each year. In recent years, requests for applications ranged between 60 and 70. This year, to date we have received application requests from over 200 non-profit organizations looking for project funding. As we are becoming better known, the demand for our resources becomes greater. This is positive because it indicates our recognition in the philanthropic community, but it also demonstrates the continued need of support required for us to keep funding worthwhile activities.

I would also like to give special thanks and recognition to all of the Foundation Regional Action Teams, affectionately known as "RATs." These individuals are essential to our support and we are so very thankful for their efforts in fund-raising. They have done an excellent job in your Department. ■

Foreign Relations

COMMISSION



Curtis O. Twete
(North Dakota)
Chairman

G. Michael Schlee
(Maryland)
Director

OVER the past year, the Foreign Relations Commission worked to implement Legion resolutions in support of a workable U.S. foreign policy that protects American interests at home and abroad.

During their three meetings since the last convention, commission members reviewed

policies and strategies were updated on worldwide foreign relations issues. The strongest emphasis was placed on POW-MIA issues and strengthening the laws on the regulation of lobbying, particularly by foreign interests.

LOBBYING REFORM

AT the direction of the National Executive Committee in 1991, the Foreign Relations Commission completed a detailed study on the effects of foreign lobbying on the governance of the United States.

Subsequently, three strong resolutions have been adopted. They urge increased disclosure requirements for lobbyists, restrictions on former key national leaders from serving as lobbyists, curtailment of floor privileges for former members of Congress who later become lobbyists, measures to ensure fair treatment of American lobbyists overseas, and centralized administration of lobbying disclosure reports.

In late 1995, substantial reform legislation was passed by both the Senate and House and signed into public law. Its implementation should substantially accomplish several of the Legion provisions detailed above.

MISSING PERSONS LEGISLATION

FOR more than a decade, The American Legion has been on record in support of reform of the procedures for determining the status of missing American military and associated civilian personnel. Our concern for the issue has arisen from several convincing reports by POW/MIA families of apparent lack of fair play and compassion in the U.S. government's handling of the cases of their loved ones.

This long-standing support for the Missing Persons Act was realized with the signing into law of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996. The provisions of this law as approved in February will produce more timely and better accountability for missing service members and will disseminate this information more openly to the family members of those missing in action.

POW/MIA PROGRAM

THE National Commander once again appointed the Foreign Relations chairman an ex-officio member of the Special POW/MIA Committee, which is chaired by Past National Commander Robert S. Turner. Members of the Foreign Relations Commission receive periodic updates on POW/MIA activities and then use that information to

assist in increasing public awareness of the POW/MIA issue among Legionnaires and the general public.

1996 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

THE largest meeting of the Foreign Relations Commission took place at the annual Washington Conference, April 1-3, 1996. The summary of the joint session is detailed in the National Security Commission annual report to this convention.

The Commission also participated in the Special POW/MIA Committee's Update conducted April 1. During this session, John F. Sommer Jr., Executive Director of the Washington Office of The American Legion, spoke on National Commander Ludwig's visit to Southeast Asia in December 1995.

In their meeting with Vietnamese officials, it was emphasized that The American Legion did not agree that accountability of America's POW/MIAs was rapidly progressing in light of the normalization of relations and, secondly, that the joint recovery efforts should continue over the long term. During the trip of the presidential delegation in March 1996, Sommer and several other non-governmental members expressed the view that the U.S. position on this issue needed to be stronger and that it was too conciliatory to the government of Vietnam.

Colleen Shine, daughter of Lt. Col. Anthony C. Shine, an Air Force pilot who was listed as missing in action in December 1972, spoke of her national and international media experiences on the POW-MIA issue. In addition to reviewing manuscripts, screenplays and Vietnam-related programs, she has been an active advocate for veterans issues on Capitol Hill. Miss Shine described her visits to Vietnam in 1994 and 1995 as efforts to achieve progress on the POW/MIA issue, and her father's case specifically.

Jay Allen Liotta, Deputy Director of the Department of Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Office, presented the current status of the Korean War American POW/MIA negotiations. The fate of more than 8,100 American servicemen from the Korean War remains unresolved. It is believed at least 5,433 of these were lost north of the 38th parallel demilitarized zone. ■

THE AMERICAN LEGION

Life Insurance

C O M M I T T E E

■ **Jerome P. Dobel Jr.**
(Missouri)
Chairman

G. Paul Dunn
(Oklahoma)
Assistant Director, Membership Services

THE American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides oversight for the several life insurance plans currently offered by The American Legion and is assigned to the National Finance Commission.

The American Legion Life Insurance Program supports several national programs which are among the most prominent and visible activities of The American Legion. The programs are listed with corresponding funding for 1996: American Legion Baseball—\$753,353; National Oratorical Contest—\$289,540; Junior Uniformed Musical Groups—\$25,000, for participation at the National Convention; Boy's Nation—\$164,415; Boy Scout of the Year Scholarship Award—\$14,000. Other awards funded include a grant of \$2,000 a year up to four years, not to exceed \$8,000, for pursuit of a course of study beyond high school. Three second-place awards in the amount of \$2,000 each also are granted.

These requests for grants are approved by The American Legion Life Insurance Committee, the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee.

HARTFORD LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

THE American Legion currently offers a Level Term Life Plan to members, their spouses and dependents. This includes Sons of The American Legion members and spouses. The Legion-approved Level Term Life Plan is underwritten by Hartford Life Insurance Company. The Administrator for the plans is Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc., located in West Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to level term, the AdvanceLife Plan from The American Legion is one of the most unusual and important benefits Legion members and spouses will ever have the opportunity to acquire.

With AdvanceLife, members and spouses receive not only life insurance protection, but also Nursing Home Benefits and Last Illness Benefits. The Nursing Home and Last Illness Benefits are automatically built into the plan. For more information, call 1-800-523-5758.

UNION FIDELITY

ANOTHER plan available to members and spouses is Birthday Life underwritten by Union Fidelity located in Treve, Pa. This plan is a guaranteed-issue combined level whole life and accidental death benefit insurance plan with premiums at entry age which do not increase as the insured grows older. No medical exam is required. This plan is underwritten and administered by Union Fidelity Life Insurance Company.

Guaranteed renewable for life, Legion-

naires and spouses age 45-80 are eligible to enroll for this plan which builds cash values and offers a loan provision. The age limit in Washington and New Jersey is lower than age 80. Contact Union Fidelity for details.

Several new products will be reviewed this year to give members a more flexible choice of life insurance benefits. Income replacement, underwritten whole life and extended guaranteed term periods are a few of the features that will be studied to be included in future product offerings. A "First to Die" policy is also being researched. "First to Die" policies insure both spouses and pays benefits on the first spouse to die. Such policies can reduce cost by as much as 30 percent over two individual policies.

Two new life insurance plans are now available to Legionnaires, Sons of The American Legion members and their dependents following action by The American Legion Life Insurance Committee and National Finance Commission. The plans, formed in response to requests by members themselves, include "Extra Life" by Globe Life and Accident, a subsidiary of United American Insurance Company, and a guaranteed issue level term plan offered by CNA Insurance Company.

"Extra Life" is a new level premium/level benefit product—essentially a whole life plan with no cash values. With an initial benefit of \$10,000 the premiums don't increase with age in most states and the benefits are never reduced. In some states a \$1 per month increase is charged for each \$10,000 of coverage during each 20-year renewal period.

The other new plan, offered by CNA Insurance Company, costs less than typical guaranteed issue plans and provides an option for those unable to pass medical underwriting on standard plans. The plan will be issued through age 59. The benefit amount is up to \$50,000 for under age 50 and up to \$20,000 for those between 50-59 years old.

Under the plan, benefits will be reduced by half at age 65, and the plan terminates automatically at age 75. The plan is currently not available in Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, and Utah.

HEALTH CARE

THE NEC has approved several health-care products which will be offered to Departments on an individual basis, as requested. Departments must approve the products by a vote of their Department Executive Committee and certify the approval to the National Adjutant. The proposed products cover a broad range of health-care needs including: Major Medical; long-term nursing care; Home Healthcare; long- and short-term disability; Medicare Supplement; short-term medical; Dental; and catastrophic coverages. Departments may or may not approve all

plans offered. Upon approval by a Department, appropriate announcements will be made to the membership.

Another important achievement of the Life Insurance Committee is the approval of a "Worldwide CHAMPUS Supplement Program" adopted by the National Executive Committee at its Spring 1996 meeting. The plan is expected to compare favorably with existing plans being offered by military associations. It is expected to be very competitive from a cost and benefits standpoint. The American Legion will receive no royalties from the plan and hopes are to use the plan as a membership tool to recruit and renew active duty and retired military personnel. Additional information will appear in future issues of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE and *Dispatch*.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

REQUESTS for information kits or concerning the status of applications, non receipt of insurance renewal, filing of death claims, status of death claims, amount of premiums, inquiries as to whether or not a member is insured, or specific questions pertaining to the terms of coverage should be directed to:

Hartford and CNA Plans

Kirke-Van Orsdel, Inc.

1776 West Lakes Parkway

West Des Moines, IA 50398

1-800-542-5547

Decreasing Term, AdvanceLife, Level Term

CNA—Guaranteed Issue Level Term

Union Fidelity Life Ins. Co.

4850 Street Road

Trevose, PA 19049

1-800-523-5758

Birthday Life

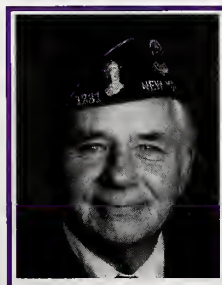
Globe Life and Accident

Globe Life Center

Oklahoma City, OK 73184

1-800-811-3927

Internal Affairs COMMISSION



Herman G. Harrington
(New York)
Chairman

Steve King
(Indiana)
Director

THE National Internal Affairs Commission was established by resolution of the National Executive Committee in 1947. The original charge for this constitutional commission still remains: to formulate and

recommend policies on all activities conducted for organizational purposes and to oversee the implementation of adopted policies.

Among those purposes are all those not properly the responsibility of any other national commission, as well as membership strategies, Post formation, clerical and records administration for Posts and individual members, and special projects. The commission also is required from time to time to provide guidance and assistance to the National Adjutant on necessary administrative operations of the National Headquarters.

Under the broad interpretation of those purposes not properly the responsibility of other commissions, Internal Affairs oversees awards, constitutional discipline and commemorative activities. The commission also monitors legislative and other regulatory activities which potentially affect Posts and Departments, and recommends appropriate courses of action.

The commission has four standing committees assigned to it for supervision and coordination. They are Trophies, Awards and Ceremonials, Resolutions Assignment, Constitution and By-Laws, and Membership and Post Activities. The latter has separate reporting responsibilities to the National Convention and the National Executive Committee.

Internal Affairs is responsible for overseeing and reviewing the activities of the Sons of The American Legion, which is not a separate organization, but rather, a major program of the organization.

The commission also oversees long-term programs and activities as the National Paid-Up-For-Life program and the National Emergency Fund.

TROPHIES, AWARDS AND CEREMONIALS

Vernon K. Grosenick
(Wisconsin)
Chairman

THIS committee supervises all of the official national awards and recommends to the National Executive Committee recipients for the Distinguished Service Medal. Over the years, some of those awarded The American Legion's highest honor were: General John J. Pershing, Ignace Jan Paderewski of Poland, Henry Ford, Ernie Pyle, Bob Hope, Babe Ruth, Dr. Jonas E. Salk, Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, the dead & missing of the Vietnam War, 10 men who have served as President of the United States in the 20th Century, plus many other citizens of renown who have made lasting and significant contributions.

Other awards this committee makes recommendations on include the International Amity Award and the Canadian Friendship Award. A report is also prepared for the NEC on miscellaneous awards that have been presented during each year.

The committee also supervises the contents of the Manual of Ceremonies of The American Legion.

RESOLUTIONS ASSIGNMENT

■ **Whit S. LaFon**
(Tennessee)
Chairman

THE Resolutions Assignment Committee meets at least three days before the convening of the annual National Convention. This committee has the responsibility to receive, consider and transmit all resolutions—with or without recommendation—to the appropriate convention committee for a report to the convention. During an average year, 300 to 400 resolutions will be assigned.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

■ **Butch L. Miller**
(Virginia)
Chairman

THE National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion can be amended only by the duly elected delegates at a National Convention.

However, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, established by the authority of the National Executive Committee in 1939, authorizes this committee to study and make proper recommendations concerning all of the matters that pertain to the constitution and by-laws, as well as matters relating to the Uniform Code of Procedure, which provides rules and regulations for the revocation, cancellation, or suspension of Department and Post charters of The American Legion.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

THE American Legion in 1978 started a series of multiple-purpose workshops to educate and inform members of The American Legion family, which includes the Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of The American Legion.

The National Leadership Workshops in 1996 provides important updates, information and training about Immunization, Flag

Education, American Legion Baseball, Membership, the National High School Oratorical Program, Junior Shooting Sports, Teen Suicide, Disability Compensation & Pension, Burial Benefits, Filing of VA Claims, Child Safety, Public Relations, Community Involvement, and much more.

Members of every Post, Unit, or Squadron are encouraged to attend one of the workshops because one of the best ways to build and maintain a strong, proactive organization is to have a membership that is well-informed on issues, goals and programs of The American Legion.

Attending every year can provide individuals with new information, as well as reinforce previous viewpoints, which will strengthen The American Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and the community. During this year's meetings, there will be concurrent sessions on Americanism, Auxiliary programs, Children & Youth, Membership, Public Relations, Service Officers' Training, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

The dates and locations for the 18th annual series of workshops are as follows:

Sept. 13-15, 1996 Region 6 Topeka, Kansas

RAMADA INN & TOWER
420 East Sixth Street, PO Box 1598
Topeka, KS 66601

Rates in the main building are \$50 single or \$57 double, and in Regency Tower are \$61 single or \$68 double, with \$7 per additional person. Reservation cut-off was Aug. 13. Call (800) 432-2424 or (913) 234-5400.

Sept. 18-20, 1996 Region 7 Las Vegas, Nevada

RIVIERA HOTEL & CASINO
2901 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Las Vegas, NV 89109

Rates are \$50 single or double, with \$20 per additional person. Reservation cut-off was Aug. 27. Call (800) 634-6753 or (702) 794-9412.

Note: This workshop starts Wednesday and ends on Friday.

Sept. 20-22, 1996 Region 2 Ocean City, Maryland

CAROUSEL HOTEL & RESORT
11700 Coastal Highway
Ocean City, MD 21842.

Rates are \$75 standard single or double, \$95 oceanfront single or double, with \$10 per additional person. Reservation cut-off was Aug. 20. Call (800) 641-0011 or (410) 524-1000.

Sept. 20-22, 1996 Region 5 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

GRAND MILWAUKEE HOTEL
4747 S. Howell Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53207-5989

Rates are \$69 single or double. Reservation cut-off was Aug. 20. Call (800) 558-3862 or (414) 481-8000.

Sept. 27-29, 1996 Region 1 Providence, Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE MARRIOTT

Charles at Orms
Providence, RI 02904

Rates are \$79 single, double, triple or quadruple. Reservation cut-off is Sept. 6. Call (800) 937-7768 or (401) 272-2400.

Sept. 27-29, 1996 Region 4 Lafayette, Louisiana

THE LAFAYETTE HILTON AND TOWERS
1521 Pinhook Road, PO Box 52286

Lafayette, LA 70505-2286

Rates are \$66 single or double, \$70 triple or quadruple. Reservation cut-off is Sept. 13. Call (800) HILTONS or (318) 235-6111.

Oct. 4-6, 1996 Region 3 Columbia, South Carolina

SHERATON HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

2100 Bush River Road
Columbia, SC 29210

Rates are \$72 single or double, \$75 king. Reservation cut-off is Sept. 3. Call (800) 325-3535 or (803) 731-0300.

Oct. 4-6, 1996 Region 8 Great Falls, Montana

HOLIDAY INN GREAT FALLS

400 10th Avenue South
Great Falls, MT 59405

Rates are \$48 single or \$53 double. Reservation cut-off is Sept. 3. Call (800) HOLIDAY or (406) 727-7200.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION (SAL)

THE Sons of The American Legion will conduct its 25th National Convention at the Marriott Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah.

For the 22nd consecutive year, the Sons of The American Legion is at an "All-Time High" in membership. The SAL closed its membership at the end of 1995 with a record 180,501 members. This number represents a 4.7 percent increase over the previous year.

Membership figures for the 1996 year are exceeding the figures for this same period last year. By the National Convention in Salt Lake City, the SAL will have surpassed the 1995 final figures, giving them another "All-Time High" in membership.

The SAL continues its support of American Legion programs and is deeply involved with the Citizens Flag Alliance in support of a constitutional amendment to protect our flag. The SAL continues its support for our nation's veterans in the VAVS program. In 1995, the SAL provided over 53,000 volunteer hours in VA homes and hospitals. Donations in cash and goods to these veterans exceeded \$244,000 nationwide. The SAL

also raised over \$100,000 this year for the Child Welfare Foundation, surpassing all previous years. They also provided several grants through The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

An integral part of The American Legion family, the Sons continue to serve and provide assistance to Posts and their communities.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY FUND

THE National Emergency Fund continues to meet the most urgent needs of Legion family members after a local, state or individual disaster. Our members know they have a source for immediate financial assistance without red tape or repayment requirements.

All monies granted from this fund are a result of the generosity of those more fortunate Legion family members who have demonstrated their compassion and devotion to mutual helpfulness for other less fortunate members through contributions. Without their kindness The American Legion's National Emergency Fund would not exist.

Each and every precious dollar contributed to this fund is used for the express purpose of rendering financial assistance to our members who have experienced damages from earthquakes, wind, rain and fire. All financial support for administrative expenses and fundraising are provided for through a separate budget authorization.

Since its inception in October 1989, the National Emergency Fund has remained at the ready, and to date, has provided more than \$1 million to offset the immediate financial strains of our members in need. Fundraising and accrued interest during this same time period total more than \$1.6 million, leaving a balance of \$588,761.30 to meet future needs.

CONSOLIDATED POST REPORTS

THE Consolidated Post Report—one of The American Legion's most valuable documents—is our report card to Congress. It provides a summary of the collective assistance provided to the nation from our Legion Posts. Nearly 53 percent of American Legion Posts submitted reports to National Headquarters for the 1994-1995 year.

The total figures show the cost to outfit Color Guards, Firing Squads and other uniformed groups was \$2,766,240; the Legion Baseball team support cost was \$5,431,417; other athletic teams were provided \$10,850,363; cash contribution to VA Voluntary Service was \$1,898,390, and over 1,412,760 hours of volunteer service were provided; 64,484 Boy Scouts were sponsored at a cost of \$1,905,006; scholarships valued at

\$3,445,923 were awarded to 7,078 students.

In addition, 2,849,771 hours were spent performing community service work, valued at \$7,850,522; nearly 107,749 pints of blood were donated; additional millions of dollars in goods and cash were contributed to programs helping veterans and their families.

Remember, these facts and figures represent just over half of all American Legion Posts; if all Posts submitted a report, the information would reflect substantially higher totals.

PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE PROGRAM

THE American Legion Paid-Up-For-Life membership program is often compared to other discount programs, offered by other groups; this is an unfair assessment. Since the Paid-Up-For-Life program was started nearly 20 years ago, its sole purpose has been to provide a method of convenience for Legionnaires to purchase a paid-life membership through a one-time payment.

Over 182,000 Legionnaires have recognized the offer as a good opportunity and have applied for membership into this unique program.

Certainly, the Paid-Up-For-Life plan is not for everyone—it was never intended to be. For more than 75 years, the primary method for being a member has been the payment of dues on an annual basis. This has served The American Legion since its founding, and will remain the most popular method in the future.

Since the last annual report, the membership of Paid-Up-For-Life has continued to grow at a very steady, as well as acceptable, rate, and it's estimated that during the next 12 months, about 20,000 Legionnaires can be expected to apply for membership into the plan.

It is well within reach for the Paid-Up-For-Life membership plan to have 300-400,000 members enrolled by the end of this decade.

Remember, the plan is aimed at providing a method of convenience for the member; it's not a discount program. Over the years, however, it can save a member considerable money, since the annual dues of any Post are subject to increase. A Paid-Up-For-Life membership fee is based wholly on the dues of a Post at the time of application, and once accepted into the plan, there is no future assessment to the member for dues.

1996 AFFINITY MEMBER BENEFITS

THE newest member benefit, The American Legion Discount Prescription program, continues to grow and provide savings for Legion and Sons of The Ameri-

can Legion members and dependents. Since the official start date on Oct. 1, 1995, members and dependents have saved more than \$900,000 on prescription purchases. The average savings is more than 17.5 percent and continues to increase.

We are also pleased to report that RxAmerica, the administrator for the program, is in final negotiations with Wal-Mart and K-Mart to add them to the list of network pharmacy chains. As soon as details are finalized, announcements will appear in the DISPATCH and THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE.

During 1995, three new hotel chains were added to the list of member discounts. They are: Ramada, Howard Johnson and Park Inns International. Information on the new benefits can be found in the Why You Should Belong and Your American Legion Benefits brochures available from Departments. Also available new in 1996 are two new life insurance plans, one from CNA, a guaranteed issue level term insurance plan, and one from Globe Life & Accident, a level term/level premium life insurance plan. Additional information can be found under Life Insurance Committee in this publication.

Several benefit offers have now been amended to include SAL members and dependents as eligible for discounts or participation. The benefits now available to SAL members and dependents are as follows:

HOTELS: Choice Hotels International, La Quinta Inns, Marriott, Days Inn, Howard Johnson, Park Inn, International and Ramada.

MOVING COMPANIES: NorthAmerican Van Lines, American Red Ball and Atlas Van Lines.

RENTAL CARS: Avis and National Car Rental.

EYEWEAR DISCOUNTS: Eye Care Plan of America (ECPA).

FINANCIAL: The American Legion Annuity Program, offered by Jackson National Life.

LIFE INSURANCE: CNA and Globe Life and Accident Insurance Companies.

The Internal Affairs Division continues to search for new benefits to provide savings and advantages for members. New developments will be reported as they occur.

DIRECT RENEWAL

THE Direct Renewal Program is a uniform, organized and simple way to invite members to renew their membership in The American Legion using a direct mail system. This program has been very successful and effective and has been funded at no cost to either the participating Departments or Posts.

The first two renewal notices are optional for Posts but the final three notices go to all delinquent members. Each Department chooses the dates that its members receive the first three notices—July 1 or Aug. 1; Oct. 1 or Nov. 1; and Dec. 15 or Jan. 11.

The March 13 and May 1 notices go to all delinquent members.

DIRECT MEMBERSHIP SOLICITATION

SINCE 1982, the Direct Membership Solicitation (DMS) Program has been responsible for acquiring over 1,650,000 new members into the 52 participating Departments. Obviously, the DMS Program has proven to be very successful in the acquisition of new members, but again this year the emphasis will be on the transfer, renewal and retention of those members.

The DMS Program will continue to support The American Legion's ongoing membership efforts with special emphasis on the retention of all members. ■

Membership & Post Activities COMMITTEE

■ **Roger L. Tingle**
(Georgia)
Chairman

Lee A. Hardy
(Minnesota)
Membership Director

MEMBERSHIP and programs go hand-in-hand to make The American Legion an organization able to provide the people and the resources to serve the needs of the veteran and his/her family. Your Membership and Post Activities Committee is pleased to report a continuing membership of nearly 3 million members world-wide.

MEMBERSHIP

Final 1994 membership	3,053,584
Final 1995 membership	2,950,200
1996 membership as of Aug. 1, 1995	2,850,500*

*Estimate. The year-end membership should equal the 1995 final membership.

33RD ANNUAL NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP

THE 33rd annual membership meeting convened in Indianapolis, Ind., on Saturday, July 27, 1996, with a majority of the 55 Departments represented.

Legionnaires arrive in Indianapolis with a very good understanding of how to work membership in their respective geographical area, but by the time this workshop con-

cludes they are prepared to face the day-to-day membership challenges with a better understanding of The American Legion as it relates to potential members.

The goal of this workshop is to educate and motivate those in attendance so they can return home and share the information and excitement with their membership recruiting force. The continuing membership theme was advanced during the opening session of this workshop—"Still Serving America." The decision to adopt this theme was based on one of the founding principles—veterans taking care of veterans. With the changing times, the need to reinforce our commitment to veterans and their families is of the utmost importance.

Promoting this year's theme will attest to our willingness to look beyond one's self and meet the needs of those veterans who are disabled, distressed or are suffering as a result of answering their country's call to duty.

A major area of discussion was the revitalization of Posts on the decline and the formation of new Posts in untapped areas throughout the country. Other areas discussed during this annual gathering were the Direct Membership Solicitation program, Direct Renewal, personal contact with new members, and face-to-face contact with members who have not renewed.

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN PROMOTION

THE National Membership Awards Program distributes over 65,000 various awards annually to recognize membership accomplishments at all levels of the organization. The promotion plan for the National Membership Campaign is formulated during the annual planning session of the M&PA Committee held in January.

UNOFFICIAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

CONTAINED within this program are a wide variety of prizes ranging from simple certificates and ribbons to valuable gifts and travel. The awards are designed to reward the membership success of dedicated Legionnaires at all levels of the organization and encourage continued growth.

Early Bird Contest—Aug. 16, 1995: Thirty-four Departments qualified for the 30 percent awards. They are: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South

Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Autumn Festival—Sept. 20, 1995: Forty-nine Departments qualified for the 40 percent awards, with 41 of them qualifying for the 45 percent bonus awards.

The 40 percent Departments are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The bonus 45 percent Departments are: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Oktoberfest—Oct. 18, 1995: Fifty Departments qualified for the 50 percent awards with 36 of them qualifying for the 55 percent bonus awards. The 50 percent Departments are: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The bonus 55 percent Departments are: Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Pearl Harbor—Dec. 13, 1995: Fifty Departments qualified for the 70 percent awards with 22 of them qualifying for the 75 percent bonus. The 70 percent Departments are: Alabama, Arizona, Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Idaho,

Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

The bonus (75 percent) Departments are: Delaware, District of Columbia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Big Twelve Competition—Feb. 21, 1996: Fourteen Departments qualified for the 90 percent awards with one of them qualifying for the 95 percent bonus award. The 90 percent Departments are: Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Minnesota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. The bonus (95 percent) Department is Delaware.

"Big Twelve" Competition Winners

Category I	No Department Qualified
Category II	No Department Qualified
Category III	No Department Qualified
Category IV	No Department Qualified
Category V	No Department Qualified
Category VI	Delaware

The American Legion Birthday—April 10, 1996: Six Departments qualified for the 1995 percent award: Arizona, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Nebraska and South Dakota.

May Day—May 8, 1996: By achieving 100 percent of the Department's 1995 membership goal, winning Department Commanders and Membership Chairmen have a choice of several gifts, based on the number of targets/bonuses made. One Department qualified for the award. The Department of Delaware achieved 100 percent of its 1996 membership goal.

Department Commander of the Year: Any Department Commander who met or exceeded his/her 100 percent goal for 1996 by May 8, 1996, will receive a plaque recognizing his/her achievement. The plaque will be presented at the National Convention in Salt Lake City.

Gold Brigade Recruiter Award: A Legionnaire who recruited 50 or more NEW members by District Competition target date, May 8, 1996, will qualify for enrollment in the elite Gold Brigade of The American Legion.

Gold Brigade Drawing: All certified members of the Gold Brigade will automatically be entered in a drawing with the five winners to be announced at the 1996 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. The five winners of the drawing will receive a \$1,000 Award Certificate.

Flag Day Salute—June 19, 1996: By meeting 110 percent of the Department's

1996 membership goal, the Department Commander and Membership Chairman will receive a \$1,500 gift certificate. Each Department that qualifies for this award will also receive the 110 percent National Commander's Plaque, to be presented at the National Convention in Salt Lake City.

Delegate Strength—Aug. 5, 1996: Delegate Strength is determined by the membership in the hands of the National Treasurer 30 days prior to the National Convention. Total number of delegates for each Department is based on five delegates at large, one delegate for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, and the members of the National Executive Committee.

Post Honor Ribbons: Post Honor Ribbons were shipped to 1,036 Posts whose 1996 membership as of Dec. 31, 1995, exceeded their final 1995 membership.

Certificate of Meritorious Service: These certificates were awarded to 218 Posts for attaining a new All-Time-High membership for 1996 by Dec. 31, 1995.

Five Consecutive Years All-Time-High: These citations are awarded to Posts with five or more consecutive years of All-Time-High membership in 1995. Only five Department reports were received last year.

DISTRICT COMMANDERS' "RACE TO THE TOP"

DISTRICT Commanders are the linchpin of the Legion's Chain of Command, serving as the vital link between the National and Department organizations and all Posts. As we are all aware, the local Post is where the "rubber meets the road." If it doesn't happen at the Post level, it doesn't happen at all. District Commanders are the people charged with ensuring that all Posts in their District maintain their vitality.

Consequently, this award was created to provide a meaningful incentive for the District Commanders and reward their membership efforts. The winning District Commander and guest receive:

- Reserved tickets to the Indianapolis 500, "the greatest spectacle in racing."
- First-class hotel accommodations for four nights at the Indianapolis Radisson Hotel City Centre.
- Reserved seating for the Indianapolis 500 parade.
- Dinner reservations Friday and Saturday evening at two of Indianapolis' finest restaurants.
- Tour of the National Headquarters of The American Legion.

Previous winners have reported how much they enjoyed their opportunity to participate in this world-renowned racing event and that they have fond memories that will last a lifetime.

The competition will be divided into five

categories based on the membership of the District. District Commanders will compete in the following categories based on the final 1995 totals, and a top District Commander for the National award will be selected from each of the five categories. Second- and Third-place awards will also be presented in each category.

Category I

Districts of 15 to 1,499 members

Category II

Districts of 1,500 to 2,999 members

Category III

Districts of 3,000 to 4,999 members

Category IV

Districts of 5,000 to 7,499 members

Category V

Districts of 7,500 and above members

The 500 Trip was presented to the Top District Commander and guest in each category whose District membership for 1996 on March 31, 1996, represented the greatest percentage over the final 1995 membership of the District. Membership cannot be less than 100 percent to qualify. First Place Award entitled winners to attend the 1996 Indianapolis 500 Race, and first-class hotel accommodations.

Second-place awards were presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1996 on March 31, 1996, represented the second highest percentage over the final 1995 membership of that District and not less than 100 percent to qualify. Winners received their choice of several gifts through the Certif-A-Gift catalog; these gifts are valued at \$500.

Third-place awards were presented to the District Commander in each category whose District membership for 1996 on March 31, 1996, represented the third highest percentage over the final 1995 membership of that District and could not be less than 100 percent to qualify. Winners received their choice of several gifts through the Certif-A-Gift catalog; these gifts are valued at \$375.

1996 First Place Winners

Trip To The Indianapolis 500 Race

Category I	Lawrence A. Bastian Puerto Rico 130.34% District 10
Category II	Bob Reyes Arizona 111.93% District 7
Category III	Robert Woodruff Georgia 105.46% District 10
Category IV	No Winner
Category V	Ronald D. Ingram Nebraska 100.61% District 8

Second Place Winners

Category I	C.E. Chavez New Mexico 115.94% District 5
Category II	John Estrada Michigan 105.17% District 17
Category III	Thomas Burns Delaware 102.06% District 4
Category IV	No Winner
Category V	No Winner

Third Place Winners

Category I	Leslie Clevinger
	Virginia 106.40% District 8
Category II	Todd Hohberger
	Delaware 102.61% District 3
Category III	Jerry Creel
	Alabama 100.26% District 12
Category IV	No Winner
Category V	No Winner

DISTRICT COMMANDER NEW POST ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

DISTRICT Commanders who achieved the goal of creating new American Legion Posts in their respective Districts and had the new Post's Temporary Charter application on file in National Headquarters by the 7th Target Date, "May Day" May 8, 1996, qualified for a special recognition plaque.

DEPARTMENT RECRUITER OF THE YEAR: Each American Legion Post will have the opportunity to submit the name of the "Top Recruiter" for that Post who has signed up the highest number of new members for the 1996 membership year by May 1, 1996. Department Adjutants will determine the Top New Member Recruiter for their respective Departments and certify their "Department Recruiter" to National Headquarters on or before May 22, 1996.

The "Department Recruiter" properly certified from each Department will be awarded a plaque with his/her accomplishment inscribed thereon.

NATIONAL RECRUITER OF THE YEAR: The individual certified with the highest number of new members recruited from among all the Departments was Joseph Chillelli. He will receive an expense-paid trip to the 1996 National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. ■

The American Legion Magazine

COMMISSION



■ **Milford Forrester**
(South Carolina)
Chairman

AS THE curtain lowered in 1996, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE looked back on a mixed bag of a year, with continued success in the editorial realm and minor setbacks in advertising.

The magazine joined thousands of other publications across the nation in feeling the pinch of a reduction of advertising revenue. Last year, the magazine ended with \$8.2 million in sales, but it was the first year in 10 that advertising revenue did not increase over the previous year. Experts attribute this reversal to unprecedented increases in the costs of printing and postage and a spillover impact on direct-mail advertisers.

Paper costs skyrocketed as much as 60 percent, causing many direct marketers to cut back on mail-order catalog distribution and magazine advertising that supports it. Forecasters say this trend will continue in 1996, but there is a strong indication that paper costs are beginning to stabilize.

A major advertising sales effort is under way to develop new business, and we hope to see positive signs in the automotive, pharmaceutical and other advertising categories. For example, General Electric made its debut in the August 1996 issue. Publisher Steve Salerno and Advertising Director Donald B. Thomson and his staff, along with Fox Associates, Inc., have mounted an aggressive campaign to attract new accounts and develop more business with long-time clients.

But the magazine's most important clients are its readers. The editorial realm of the magazine experienced many changes and successes in 1995 that continued well into this year. In November 1995, the Legion's national twice-monthly newspaper, THE AMERICAN LEGION DISPATCH, was consolidated with the magazine. Combining both staffs reduced duplication of coverage of news and other areas of concern to the Legion and, in fact, increased the editorial staff of both publications.

Under Mr. Salerno's guidance, further changes were made earlier this summer to make the consolidation more efficient. Joe Stuteville, who served as editor of the DISPATCH since its creation in 1991, was appointed editor of the magazine. Anthony Miller now serves as editor of the DISPATCH.

The primary goal of both publications, however, is to continually deliver to readers high-quality editorial content and to walk the point for our members and other veterans on an array of issues. Among the highlights over the last year, the magazine:

- Won a first-place "Gold Award" in the 1996 SNAP Excel Awards for its story "St. George Is Expendable" (October 1995), an expose on the problems faced by families, soldiers and towns who were unwitting victims of atomic testing.

- Launched the "On Duty" column, a one-page standing feature that provides useful information to active-duty service members and reservists. A poster campaign that centers on the column is now being implemented in over 300 commissaries and base exchanges nationwide.

- Shipped copies of the magazine to U.S. troops deployed to Bosnia for peacekeeping

operations. This project is ongoing.

- Published a special issue (September 1995) commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The 120-page special issue was marked by high-quality feature articles and compelling images assembled and designed by Art Director Simon Smith.

- Provided coverage of the Legion's quest for a constitutional amendment to protect the U.S. Flag. While the amendment passed in the House, the measure was defeated in the Senate. The amendment campaign continues, and so too does the magazine's coverage of this important issue.

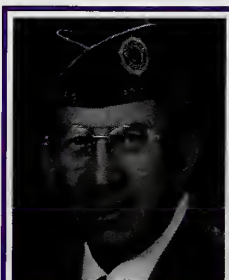
The magazine remained faithful to its mandate of "For God and Country." Various general-interest articles focusing on core value issues such as the changing American family structure, education, patriotism and civic responsibility, and national security were published throughout the year.

Teamwork is the key to success, and the magazine demonstrated this quite well in working with other divisions in the development of publications used in the recently established American Legion Extension Institute. Magazine staff members played a major role in the editing, design and printing of a four-volume set geared to teaching Legion members more about their organization and how they can become more involved in Post programs and activities.

In 1996, THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE continues to accept new challenges in advertising and to adapt to the ever-volatile nature and spiraling costs of producing a monthly magazine. In the latter category, your magazine commission, Mr. Salerno and Production Manager Joseph Campioni continually evaluate ways to offset increases in paper and postage. And in keeping with the theme that Legionnaires are "Still Serving America," the goal of the magazine commission and magazine staff is to ensure that we are still serving the needs of our readers—the members of The American Legion family. ■

National Security

COMMISSION



■ **Allen L. Titus**
(Indiana)
Chairman

G. Michael Schlee
(Maryland)
Director

NATIONAL Security has been one of the four pillars of The American Legion since its inception in 1919. Despite the end

of the Cold War, the need for our country to maintain a strong national defense remains as crucial as ever.

During the past year, The American Legion, through its National Security and Foreign Relations division, has presented its mandates and views on a number of issues, including the Fiscal Year 1996 and 1997 defense budgets and the commitment of U.S. military forces to Bosnia, to the Clinton administration, Congress and officials of the Department of Defense, and other federal agencies.

1996 WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

IN conjunction with the 37th Washington Conference, the National Security Commission and Foreign Relations Commission met in joint session on April 1 to hear speakers on a variety of national security and foreign relations topics.

The Hon. Peter Tarnoff, the Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, spoke on an array of foreign policy challenges which face the United States. These included such issues as instability in eastern and central Europe, saber rattling by the People's Republic of China, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the increase in ethnic and nationalistic wars.

Diplomacy remains our first line of defense, said Tarnoff, who emphasized that diplomacy does not come cheaply; that NATO and other international organizations must be reinvigorated; that democracy and human rights need constant support; and that the United States must continue to be engaged as a world power.

Maj. Gen. Greg Gile, director of the Department of the Army Office of Operations, Readiness and Mobilization, spoke on the roles and progress of the U.S. Army in Operation Joint Endeavor in Bosnia.

With nearly 20,000 active duty and reserve Army troops on the ground in Bosnia, our forces have been making steady progress in ensuring the separation of warring parties and in clearing minefields. Two of the major accomplishments to date have been bridging the Sava River and the development of logistical bases in Hungary which support the forces deployed in Operation Joint Endeavor.

The ambassador from the Slovak Republic, Dr. Branislav Lichardus, and Col. George Buskirk, from the Indiana Army National Guard, spoke on the Partnership for Peace relationship in which the Indiana National Guard will be training with the Slovak military. Twenty of the eastern and central European countries, to include Russia, have established these defense-to-defense contacts with state National Guard

organizations. These relationships were developed as a result of a Defense Minister's council conducted in Williamsburg, Va., in July 1995.

The National Security and Foreign Relations Commissions met in joint session to attend the POW/MIA Update presented by the Special POW/MIA Committee which was presided over by committee member Fernando Goulart.

The National Security Commission met on April 3 to conduct its business session. Discussion took place concerning the pre-convention trip to Hill Air Force Base in Utah planned for Aug. 30, 1996. The issue of U.S. military personnel wearing United Nations uniform items during peace operations was discussed, as was the issue of discharging HIV-positive military personnel as required by the 1996 National Defense Authorization Act.

Commission members decided that the staff would continue to research the uniform items issue with an eye toward the possible development of a resolution. It was also decided that a resolution on the HIV-discharge provision would not be appropriate at this time. The commission also decided to defer action on two resolutions to the Spring 1997 meeting of the National Executive Committee.

BLOOD DONOR ACTIVITIES

THE American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary continue to be principal sources of supply for blood. Through our vast network of Posts and Units organized into Department programs, Legionnaires and Auxiliary members continue to supply the blood needs of their own members and hospitalized veterans, and under cooperative agreements, to patients in civilian hospitals. In the past year, this program has continued to grow.

NATIONAL COMMANDER'S AWARDS

TO stimulate activities on the part of Departments and Posts, annual awards are made by the National Commander. During the period from June 1, 1994, through May 31, 1995, many Departments of The American Legion actively participated in the Blood Donor Program.

The criteria for the awards for Post and individual participation were based on Res. 14, adopted at the Spring Meeting, May 8-9, 1985, of the National Executive Committee. The resolution directs that Departments be placed in one of six groups based on the size of the Department, using standards established by the Membership and Post Activi-

ties Committee.

The winning Departments were Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Georgia, Tennessee, Rhode Island and Delaware.

Departments are doing an excellent job of encouraging Posts to participate in The American Legion's ROTC Medals Program. During the period from July 1, 1994, to June 30, 1995, more than 10,000 medals were awarded to deserving Senior and Junior ROTC cadets. The number of high schools participating in the Junior ROTC program continues to increase. Presentations of medals were made to ROTC units in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and in overseas Departments.

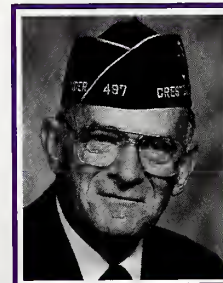
PAUL H. GRIFFITH ROTC TROPHY

THE National Executive Committee at its October 1975 meeting approved Res. 21 which established the Paul H. Griffith Trophy for the ROTC Program. The trophy honors the memory of Past National Commander Paul H. Griffith, who served as an Assistant Secretary of Defense and throughout his lifetime maintained an active interest in our nation's defense.

The criterion for judging the winner of the trophy is based on the Department or Departments giving the greatest degree of support to ROTC units, including the number of medals presented and Legion participation in awards day ceremonies. Last year's winners of the Paul H. Griffith Trophy were the Departments of Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island and Vermont. ■

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

COMMISSION



Chet Stellar
(Ohio)
Chairman

Carroll Williams
(Maryland)
Director

THE American Legion's Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission (VA&R) continues to confront many challenges in promoting and protecting veterans benefits programs.

In the past year, VA health care reform, disability compensation and pension programs, the Board of Veterans Appeals casework, the Court of Veterans Appeals, Persian

Gulf veterans' illnesses, and other important subjects have occupied the time and the attention of VA&R Headquarters staff.

The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission is the keystone program of The American Legion and one of the primary reasons why World War I veterans founded the Legion. The VA&R program has three principal elements. First is the service provided by the national staff to Department and Post Service Officers in developing and presenting claims and dealing with other issues related to veterans' benefits programs.

The second element is the continuing effort to protect and improve veterans' benefits through legislative channels by working with congressional committees and by maintaining negotiations and liaison with the White House and VA. The VA&R staff appeared before Congress 24 times over the last year to testify on benefits programs.

The third element of the VA&R program is the oversight of VA.

The VA&R Commission staff maintains assertive oversight of VA programs and operations to ensure that VA has the necessary resources and personnel to "care for those who have borne the battle" on a timely and quality basis.

A major goal remains the comprehensive reform of the VA health care system. The Legion's "GI Bill of Health" proposal, introduced in the House on Aug. 2, would expand veterans' access to VA health care by eliminating statutory rules which for years have hindered VA from providing many veterans routine outpatient treatment, preventive health care services and home care. The proposal also would authorize new revenue sources for VA.

The American Legion is committed to achieving an eligibility reform bill that increases access to care for service-connected and other Category A veterans, as well as for those veterans who, given the opportunity, would choose VA as their primary health care provider. In this regard, the Legion supports Medicare and Medicaid subvention in VA, and a larger retention of third-party insurance reimbursement.

Movement toward VA health care reform has been made in the 104th Congress. However, the acceptable reform of the VA health care system will not be complete until new non-appropriated revenue sources are approved to give more veterans access to VA.

The VA&R Commission is closely monitoring VA's progress in improving its benefits delivery programs and the status of initiatives intended to improve the quality and timeliness of claims processing.

The Legion recognizes that progress has been made in reducing the number of pending benefits claims. By the end of FY 1995, the backlog declined to 385,000. However, the impasse on the federal budget resulting in two partial shutdowns of VA and lost

production time has caused the backlog of pending claims to grow. There are approximately 389,000 claims in progress.

The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) acknowledges that its workload will remain high for the foreseeable future. Not only are more claims being filed, but they are increasingly more complex, medically and legally, and involve multiple issues. As a result, they are more time-consuming to develop and adjudicate.

VBA has proposed to restructure and consolidate activities at many of its field stations. A series of 10 restructuring initiatives has been announced which is intended to make field stations operate more efficiently, reduce labor costs and improve service to veterans. We have a number of concerns with both the rationale for this undertaking and the Department's ability to achieve the promised results and savings.

There are numerous questions regarding VBA's approach to their current and future budget prospects; the stated objectives and their capability to achieve them; long standing concerns regarding problems with the VA's long-term computer modernization program; as well as issues relating to serious deficiencies in the quality of adjudication decisions. The American Legion is not prepared to support the Department's restructuring plan without the opportunity for a full, public examination and debate on this historic change in the way VBA delivers service to veterans.

PERSIAN GULF WAR TASK FORCE

THE Task Force reported to the National Commander findings from a review of Gulf War veterans' claims that it conducted in April. The review found 95 percent of Gulf War veterans who filed for undiagnosed illness compensation were denied VA benefits, and that VA adjudicators, in many cases, ignored VA's own rules and regulations when they handled these claims. The National Commander presented the report to the Secretary of the VA, and the Task Force has been pushing for adoption of the report's recommendations by the VA.

The Task Force is working on several other studies to include: a birth defects study with The Association of Birth Defects Children, Inc., which will examine clusters of rare birth defects in children born to Gulf War veterans; Phase II of the claims report which will examine the outcomes for the veterans who had applied for VA compensation and who complained of fatigue; and a study that will examine the economic impact of mobilization on Reservists and members of the National Guard during the Gulf War. The recommendations from these studies will not gather dust on someone's desk in Washington, but will become

a focus of the Task Force efforts to have the recommendations implemented.

The Persian Gulf War Task Force has worked closely with all Divisions on a number of outreach initiatives. These initiatives informed Gulf War veterans about Legion and government programs available to serve them. The Legion's Internet Home Page (<http://www.legion.org>) contains valuable information for Gulf War veterans, and it encourages them to contact the Legion for assistance. Radio public service announcements began airing in March, and they, as well as the Home Page, advertise the toll-free telephone number designed to get veterans assistance from the nearest American Legion service officer. The May issue of THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE focused on Gulf War veterans, showing that five years after the Gulf War, the Legion still has Gulf War veterans at the top of its agenda. ■

National Legislative COMMISSION



Charles Pessio
(New York)
Chairman

Steve Robertson
(Louisiana)
Director

THE purpose of the National Legislative Commission is to promote the legislative mandates of The American Legion before Congress. These mandates are dictated by resolutions adopted at either a National Convention or meetings of the National Executive Committee.

The American Legion's legislative portfolio covers a large spectrum of issues. Promoting the Legion's mandates requires testimony at congressional hearings, writing and mailing thousands of letters, lobbying Congress by initiating countless hours of telephone calls, and requesting meetings involving the commission's staff. The National Legislative Council, the Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion effectively augment the Legion's lobbying efforts.

Legislative business in Washington was dominated over the previous year by the Fiscal Year 1996 budget battle between Congress and the White House. Because the two sides failed to agree to over half of the federal budget prior to Oct. 1, Congress was forced to keep the government operating on a series of short-term continuing resolutions.

This conflict culminated late in 1995, when the federal government was forced to

shut down twice. After months of tough, contentious negotiations and 13 continuing resolutions, Congress and President Clinton reached a final agreement on the remaining FY 1996 government spending on April 26, when the president signed Public Law 104-134.

The next several months will focus on the normal annual appropriations process and the continuing efforts to balance the federal budget. The president, the House and the Senate have each developed a plan to balance the budget by 2002.

Philosophical differences between Congress and the White House may result in a continuing battle during the FY 1997 budget process. The winner of the budget skirmishes may determine the outcome of congressional and presidential elections in November.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) was one of the departments held hostage by this intergovernmental squabble. VA received \$38.37 billion for FY 1996, nearly \$639 million more than it was appropriated in FY 1995. The medical care account received an increase of over \$330 million, but the major/minor construction funds were cut from \$507 million in FY 1995 to \$326 million for the current year.

Another highlight of the past year was the Legion's fight for passage of a constitutional amendment to protect the American Flag from physical desecration. On June 28 the House of Representatives voted 312-120 in favor of House Joint Resolution 79.

However, on Dec. 12, the Senate failed to pass the measure by a vote of 63-36, which was three votes shy of the two-thirds supermajority needed to pass the amendment on to the states for ratification.

The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance will continue to press Congress for passage of this vital legislation in the 105th Congress.

On May 2, by a vote of 97-3, the Senate passed S. 1664, a bill to tighten the nation's borders, limit government benefits to some immigrants, and test a national database to stop illegal immigrants from getting jobs. It would also nearly double the number of border patrol agents. The House passed a similar measure, H.R. 2202 on March 21 by a vote of 333-87. The measures differ in certain respects and will need to be reconciled before the president can sign a final law.

In recent years, the budget for the Veterans Employment and Training Service in the Department of Labor (DoL) has failed to meet the proper funding levels in accordance with federal law. In testimony, the Legion recommended funds for FY 1996 totaling \$98.3 million for the Disabled Veterans Outreach Program, \$86.3 million for the Local Veterans Employment Representatives program, and \$2.9 million for the National Veterans Training Institute.

Unfortunately, P.L. 104-134 only provid-

ed \$76.9 million for the DVOP account, \$71.4 million for LVERs and \$2.7 million for NVTI. The American Legion will continue to insist that these programs receive sufficient funding for them to continue their vital efforts on behalf of this country's veterans.

Maintaining a strong national defense still remains a major objective of The American Legion, and that message has been repeatedly delivered to lawmakers in testimony, phone calls and letters. Provisions were included as part of the FY 1996 Department of Defense (DoD) authorization, P.L. 104-106, which address Legion concerns about service members missing in action and sets forth criteria to guarantee that such persons are ultimately accounted for.

The law also contains a provision which prohibits DoD from issuing defense grants and contracts to any college or university that refuses to allow an ROTC program on its campus. In addition, P.L. 104-106 contains language which converts the Civilian Marksmanship Program from an armed forces-supervised program to a nonprofit, civilian corporation.

DoD appropriations for FY 1996, P.L. 104-61, had been the target of a veto threat. The measure funded U.S. armed forces at \$243.3 billion, nearly \$7 billion more than requested by the White House. Most of the increase can be traced to higher funding for procurement of anti-missile systems, combat aircraft and naval vessels, and increases in pay and benefits for military personnel.

Because the future funding of VA remains uncertain, The American Legion will continue to press Congress for reform of the current health care delivery system. The American Legion is seeking to expand eligibility, enhance revenue sources, maintain specialized services, increase research funding, and keep VA as a backup medical system for the Department of Defense.

To that end, The American Legion has developed legislation, dubbed the "GI Bill of Health," which will accomplish all these things. Legion spokesmen have met with over one-fourth of the members of Congress or their staffs, seeking sponsors and support for the "GI Bill of Health."

In order to ensure adequate funding for VA, The American Legion has testified before the Appropriations Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies and both Veterans Affairs committees regarding President Clinton's FY 1997 proposal for VA's budget.

The Legion will continue to actively participate in the legislative process to pursue full funding for veterans' programs and benefits.

On Feb. 13 President Clinton enacted P.L. 104-110. The legislation extends until Dec. 31, 1996 VA's guarantee of treatment for veterans suffering from Persian Gulf syndrome, despite the fact that the causes of this disorder have not been pinpointed.

The American Legion testified before Congress on research efforts with regard to Persian Gulf illnesses.

The Legion expressed concerns about the lack of progress in determining definitive causes for the illnesses and the timeliness in treating veterans. The Legion believes there is compelling evidence, constantly downplayed by DoD, that chemical weapons and possibly biological warfare agent exposures could be the causes of some of the Gulf illnesses.

In April and May, DoD chemical experts and medical doctors testified before the President's Advisory Committee on Persian Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses that low-level chemical exposures occurred, despite the fact that DoD's official policy position is that no exposures took place. The advisory committee will issue its final report to the president in December.

As November approaches, the congressional elections could see a number of new legislators representing their districts and states in the 105th Congress. It may not be as large as the freshman class of two years ago, but to date 48 representatives and 13 senators have either announced their retirement, are running for other offices or have been defeated in primary elections.

As we look ahead to 1997, we expect serious challenges in the 105th Congress, particularly on the federal budget. ■

Public Relations COMMISSION



Robert L. Morrill
(New York)
Chairman

Richard H. Nelson
(Illinois)
Director

THE National Public Relations Commission is charged with properly positioning The American Legion before the media and general public. The Commission took a proactive role in taking the Legion message to the American people, by more issue-focused work with members of the media.

Securing a constitutional amendment to protect the American Flag from physical desecration remained a high priority. Among the efforts in support of this goal: news releases and op-ed columns promoting this objective; creation and distribution of flag campaign clip art urging readers to "Rally Around The Flag;" inclusion of the flag-protection campaign in suggested addresses developed for special days, civic groups and remarks on Americanism, and providing specialized support in coopera-

tion with the Citizens Flag Alliance.

As The American Legion went on-line on the World Wide Web, Public Relations staff served on the multi-divisional Internet Working Group, which coordinated the development of The American Legion Home Page (<http://www.legion.org>).

The Internet has helped the Commission reach out to the Legion's volunteers, the general public and the news media. Thanks to the Internet, the Commission continually learns more about the PR needs of Legion posts and volunteers. Through e-mail technology (tal@legion.org), members of the staff have exchanged correspondence with Legionnaires who want PR problem-solving direction.

Future plans involving the Internet will allow the commission to provide frequently requested material to members, including the Speakers Guide, PR Handbook, Suggested Speeches, suggested special-day news releases and special-day proclamations.

The Public Relations Office in Indianapolis and Media Relations Office in Washington, D.C. handled more than 1,300 news media contacts in the last year.

Efforts to broaden exposure of the National High School Oratorical Contest were successful. In addition to working closely with hometown news media to provide advance information on the four finalists, hometown radio and newspaper reporters were provided telephone interview time with each of the finalists. This generated newspaper coverage of the finalists in morning papers on the day of the finals.

Channel One, a national cable network reaching more than 12 million students in 8,000 schools, did a story on the winner, Kaleen Love of Mesa, Ariz., that included her photo from The American Legion's Internet Home Page.

The Commission also attracted national media attention to the Legion perspective on Gulf War Syndrome and the Veterans Health Care Security Plan. Key individuals involved in these issues appeared on such programs as CNN's "Talk Back Live," CBS News and ABC News, and were interviewed by *Newsweek*, the Associated Press, Radio America and America's Health Network.

The Commission attracted national media interest in the Legion's positions on aspects of VA health care. Among the media interviewing key individuals: *The American Journal of Nursing* and ABC News "World News Tonight."

The National Commander's monthly op-ed column, provided upon request to larger weekly newspapers, was requested by nearly 50 daily newspapers, leading to growing newspaper exposure of Legion concerns. The column is now received by more than 300 newspapers.

The Veterans Media Data Bank was launched in November, following the suc-

cess of the World War II Media Data Bank. This data base, comprising veterans of all war-eras who are willing to talk with reporters, has grown steadily during the early months.

Commission audio-visual efforts continued at a heavy pace. The World War II Commemorated series of productions from the 77th National Convention were recognized with a Bronze Telly Award for excellence in video production.

Two other video productions from 1995 were also given the same recognition: "The American Flag: More Than A Piece Of Cloth," and "Boys State: Insuring Democracy's Future."

A radio public service announcement campaign from early 1995, providing a toll-free telephone number to help veterans make contact with a Legion service officer, continues to generate nearly 50 calls a month after 15 months. A new radio public service campaign targeted to veterans of the Persian Gulf War has generated an increase in calls to another special toll-free number.

As American service members were deployed to Bosnia in operation "Joint Endeavor," Legionnaires re-activated the Family Support Network.

Public Relations supported the program by developing news releases and ad slicks promoting the Family Support Network and its toll-free telephone number. These materials were distributed to news media outlets in cities near bases with deploying troops. Radio stations in those target areas also were provided public service announcements. As additional reserve units were activated, more targeted media mailings were undertaken.

The Public Relations Handbook has been updated. The new publication not only provides fundamental guidance to volunteers, it also includes samples of proclamations and press releases for special days.

The National Commander's Public Relations Award was presented to James V. Kimsey, founder and chairman emeritus of America Online.

The Fourth Estate Award for Excellence in Journalism will be presented during the 78th National Convention to KQED-TV in San Francisco for its educational series on democracy titled "An American Promise."

The 1995 Department Media Awards were presented to: *The Daily Press*, Newport News, Va., Daily Newspaper; *Williston Times*, Williston, N.Y., Weekly Newspaper; and WLVL Radio, Lockport, N.Y., Radio. No award was presented for television.

The future holds many challenges and much promise for the Legion and the PR Commission.

We expect to continue to provide a high level of program support while intensifying specialized efforts which achieve the Commission's objectives. ■

Management Information

S E R V I C E S

■ Ron Brooks
(Tennessee)
Executive Director

THE MIS Division is responsible for many processes critical to the operations of The American Legion. MIS staff play a key role in the selection of all software to be used by National Headquarters staff.

Training on the selected software as well as support and modifications are performed by our staff. MIS also determines the hardware to be purchased for employees of National Headquarters and is responsible for troubleshooting and maintaining the equipment.

MIS is responsible for the computer system which houses The American Legion's membership database as well as keeping this database updated with changes to the membership, whether it be the adding of new members, renewing existing members, changing addresses of members or changing any other membership information. These services are also provided for the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and the Citizens Flag Alliance.

In conjunction with the membership database capabilities, The American Legion has invested in sophisticated list processing software. This ensures mailings are done at the lowest cost using features which:

- Eliminate duplicate names from various lists so that only one item is sent to each addressee;
- Sort mail in US Postal Service sequence and print the address using the USPS barcode to receive the most favorable US Postal Service discounts; and
- Identifies addresses which would not be recognized and thus not be delivered by the Postal Service.

The MIS Division is also in the personalized laser printing business. Annual membership cards, membership solicitation letters, renewal notices, return address labels for the Departments' revenue programs, mailing labels for various publications and a variety of letters and fundraising pieces are all done by MIS.

These lasers can print up to 450,000 letter-size documents in a day!

The American Legion MIS Division is an integral part of the Marketing Services Group, which includes Haynes & Partners Communications and Promotion Management.

Via this relationship, many of the services described above are sold to outside organizations, resulting in revenue which helps offset the cost of these operations. ■

Independent Auditor's Report



GEO. S. OLIVE & CO. LLC
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Independent Auditor's Report

Mr. Daniel A. Ludwig, National Commander
The American Legion National Headquarters
Indianapolis, Indiana

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheet of The American Legion National Headquarters, and its wholly owned subsidiary, as of December 31, 1995, and the related consolidated statements of revenue, expenses and changes in fund balances—current fund and cash flows for the year ended December 31, 1995. These consolidated financial statements are the responsibility of the Legion's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of The American Legion National Headquarters as of December 31, 1995, and the results of its operations, changes in its fund balances and cash flows for the year then ended, in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles.

As further discussed in the notes to the financial statements, during the year ended December 31, 1995, the Legion changed its methods of accounting to comply with Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 116, and its method of presenting financial statements to comply with SFAS No. 117.

Our audit was made for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The reconciliation of audited financial statements to internal financial statements is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audits of the basic financial statements and, in our opinion, is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

Geo. S. Olive & Co. LLC

Indianapolis, Indiana
April 3, 1996

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET December 31, 1995

ASSETS		DECEMBER 31 1995
Cash		\$150,631
Restricted cash		28,304
Agent Orange program		96,454
Accounts receivable		
Emblem Division		95,135
Publications Division		1,344,952
Other		2,173,401
Unbilled production costs		37,916
Accrued interest on investments		342,132
Inventories		
Emblem Division		1,378,302
Publications Division		156,938
Prepaid expenses and supplies		217,039
Prepaid pension expense		7,065,967
Deferred membership expense		10,597
Deferred direct membership solicitation expense		3,721,448
Postal deposits		80,000
Investments		16,899,216
Segregated for Designated Funds		
Segregated for Washington, D. C. building		12,967,332
Overseas Graves Decoration Funds		810,477
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Funds		893,316
Other		22,692,614
Investment in affiliate		16,283,719
		197,917
		53,845,375
Property, equipment, and intangible asset		
Land, Indianapolis parking lot		238,359
Washington, D. C. real estate		
Land		80,000
Building		4,116,940
Furniture, fixtures, and equipment		
National Headquarters, Indianapolis, Indiana		9,334,952
Washington, D. C. building		1,398,696
Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc.		720,201
Goodwill		303,372
		16,192,520
		(8,355,199)
Accumulated depreciation and amortization		7,837,321
		\$78,581,912
LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES		DECEMBER 31 1995
Liabilities		
Accounts payable		\$2,638,224
Cash overdraft		902,637
Agent orange program		96,454
Deposits on Emblem merchandise sales		293,886
Deferred advertising income		60,877
Deferred dues income		20,557,100
Deferred income, direct membership solicitation		641,150
Accrued vacation benefits		553,792
Note payable, line of credit		107,231
Provision for health insurance liability		45,000
Other liabilities		197,548
Long-term debt		582,020
Deferred dues income, Paid-Up-For-Life memberships		22,879,448
Total liabilities		49,555,367
Fund balances		
Unrestricted, general		7,716,745
Unrestricted, designated		
Computer reserve		500,000
Real estate reserve		841,977
Convention reserve		100,000
Employee insurance stabilization		100,000
Convention stabilization fund		113,890
Restricted fund		10,728,545
Reserve fund		2,238,789
Oratorical		265,527
Life Insurance Trust funds		4,379,597
Citizens Flag Alliance		197,917
Others		55,002
		19,521,244
Temporarily Restricted		
Relief fund		645,051
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund		965,287
Others		178,218
		1,788,556
		29,026,545
		\$78,581,912

See notes to financial statements.

REVENUE

National dues
Sales
Sales of Emblem items
Advertising
Investment
Direct membership solicitation
Revenue enhancement
American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation income
Amounts withdrawn from The American Legion Life Insurance Plan
Other

	General	Unrestricted Designated	Total	Temporarily Restricted	Grand Total
	\$24,492,883	\$1,228,248	\$25,721,131		\$25,721,131
	2,589,003		2,589,003		2,589,003
	6,575,022		6,575,022		6,575,022
	8,050,482		8,050,482		8,050,482
	969,763	2,416,507	3,386,270	\$ 84,638	3,470,908
	2,203,342		2,203,342		2,203,342
	727,089		727,089		727,089
	550,057		550,057		550,057
	1,139,071	(945,359)	193,712		193,712
	6,050,769	1,136,700	7,187,469	527,728	7,715,197
	53,347,481	3,836,096	57,183,577	612,366	57,795,943
Funds Released From Restriction	464,366		464,366	(464,366)	

Funds Released From Designation

(1,228,248)

EXPENSES

Salaries
Employee benefits
Cost of sales
Selling, general, and administrative
Paid-Up-For-Life
Direct publication
Executive and staff travel
Commission and committee
Operational
Office and postage
Occupancy
Special projects and programs

	8,899,597		8,899,597		8,899,597
	1,412,465		1,412,465		1,412,465
	5,943,315		5,943,315		5,943,315
	149,237	71,664	220,901		220,901
	14,083,287	1,060,246	1,060,246		1,060,246
	859,671		14,083,287		14,083,287
	1,243,229		859,671		859,671
	7,775,325		1,243,229		1,243,229
	4,450,131		7,775,325		7,775,325
	2,558,354		4,450,131		4,450,131
	3,643,929	4,926,099	2,558,354		2,558,354
	51,018,540	6,058,009	8,570,028		8,570,028
			57,076,549		57,076,549
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenses	4,021,555	(3,450,161)	571,394	148,000	719,394
Fund Balances, Beginning of Year	7,072,190	19,594,405	26,666,595	1,640,556	28,307,151
Transfer of funds	(3,377,000)	3,377,000			
Fund Balances, End of Year	\$ 7,716,745	\$19,521,244	\$27,237,989	\$1,788,556	\$29,026,545

See notes to financial statements.

OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Excess (deficiency) revenue over expenses
Depreciation and amortization
Gain on sale of investments
Loss from sale of fixed assets
Certain working capital transactions
Restricted cash
Accounts receivable
Notes receivable
Accrued interest on investments
Inventories
Prepaid expenses and supplies
Deferred expenses
Postal deposits
Other assets
Accounts payable
Deposits on emblem sales
Deferred advertising
Deferred income
Accrued vacation
Other liabilities

Total cash provided by operating activities

INVESTING ACTIVITIES

Additions to property and equipment
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets
Purchase of investments
Sales of investments

Total cash used by investing activities

FINANCING ACTIVITIES

Payments on capital lease
Proceeds from notes payable
Payments on notes payable
Cash overdrafts

Total cash provided by financing activities

DECREASE IN CASH

CASH, BEGINNING OF YEAR

CASH, END OF YEAR

SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOWS INFORMATION

Cash paid for interest

\$2,799,763	
1,665,012	
(378,154)	
299,462	
(1,477)	
(78,129)	
7,600	
(102,621)	
116,431	
(885,463)	
(597,385)	
(25,000)	
3,115	
(1,447,553)	
154,703	
(15,031)	
(287,963)	
44,983	
(244,872)	
<u>1,027,421</u>	
(1,748,797)	
819	
(59,896,942)	
59,870,714	
<u>(1,774,206)</u>	
(625,981)	
1,074,503	
(63,670)	
340,518	
<u>725,370</u>	
(21,415)	
172,046	
<u>\$ 150,631</u>	
\$107,186	

See notes to financial statements.

NATURE OF OPERATIONS AND SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Nature of Operations

The American Legion National Headquarters (the Legion) is a national veterans' organization which was declared to be a corporate body by an Act of the United States Congress on Sept. 16, 1919.

According to the Original Act and Subsequent Amendments, the purpose of the Organization is: "To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to promote peace and goodwill among the peoples of the United States and all the nations of the earth; to preserve the memories and incidents of the two World Wars and the other great hostilities fought to uphold democracy; to cement the ties and comradeship born of service; and to consecrate the efforts of its members to mutual helpfulness and service to their country."

Haynes and Partners Communications, Inc. (HPC), an Indiana corporation, is 100% owned by The American Legion National Headquarters and engages in the creation and management of accountable and measurable direct response advertising and marketing strategies. HPC's wholly owned subsidiary, Promotion Management, Inc., provides targeted communications, computer services and direct response analysis to not-for-profit organizations, financial institutions, governmental offices, retailers and other entities engaged in direct marketing activities. The majority of their sales are to the Legion. The remaining sales are made primarily in the State of Indiana.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues, expenses gain, and losses and other changes in net assets during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Basis of Presentation

The Legion generally reports for financial statement purposes on the accrual method of accounting, recognizing income when earned and expenses when incurred.

The December 31, 1995 consolidated financial statements include the accounts of the Legion and HPC and HPC's wholly owned subsidiary. All material intercompany transactions have been eliminated.

Accounts Receivable

The direct charge-off method is used to account for losses in collection of accounts receivable. An allowance for uncollectible

accounts receivable is considered unnecessary by the Legion and HPC because all significant accounts expected to be uncollectible have been written off.

Unbilled Production Costs

HPC records time incurred on approved projects each day at standard billing rates (based on the employees' years of experience, job quote, market conditions, etc.). Production time is accumulated daily and is recorded as either unbilled production time, accounts receivable (when billed) or written off as uncollectible. Production costs also include the cost, plus a standard mark-up, for purchases from outside vendors.

Inventories

Inventories, which consist of Emblem items held for sale and magazine paper and publication rights, are valued at the lower of cost or market. Supplies which are not intended for sale are expensed when purchased.

Investments

Investments are recorded at cost. Premiums or discounts on investments are generally recognized at the time of disposal or maturity.

Property and Equipment

Furniture, fixtures and equipment are carried at cost and are depreciated beginning in the month of acquisition on the straight-line method based on the estimated useful lives of the assets involved. Leasehold improvements and repairs are expensed when incurred. Depreciation on the Washington, D. C. building is computed on the straight-line method using a thirty-year life.

Depreciation expense amounted to \$1,665,012 in 1995.

Support and Revenue

The Legion reports gifts of cash and other assets as restricted support if they are received with donor stipulations that limit the use of the donated assets. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

Income

Dues are recognized as income in the applicable membership period which is on a calendar-year basis.

In addition to other methods of obtaining new members, the Legion uses direct mail and other direct marketing approaches. The income generated from the direct membership solicitation is recog-

nized in the applicable membership period (calendar year) and the expenses incurred to obtain these memberships are deferred and written off in the period in which the income is recognized.

The Legion is involved in various revenue enhancement programs. The revenue and expenses related to the programs are recognized in the periods to which they apply.

Income from The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation is recorded when received. These receipts are for projects and programs conducted in the year of receipt.

Advertising

The Legion and HPC expense advertising costs as incurred. Advertising costs were \$269,000 for the year ended December 31, 1995.

Pension Plan

The Legion has a defined-benefit pension plan covering substantially all of its employees, as well as those of certain affiliated and subordinated groups. The plan was established in 1944 by vote of the Legion's National Convention. Contributions to the plan are made by the Legion and other participating groups on the basis of annual actuarial valuations.

Federal Income Tax

The Legion is exempt from federal income tax (except on unrelated business income) under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code. The Legion is not considered to be a private foundation. Federal and state income tax expense is provided for HPC when incurred.

Accounting Changes

The Legion has adopted the provisions of Statement of Financial Accounting Standard (SFAS) No. 116, *Accounting for Contributions Received and Contributions Made*. SFAS No. 116 requires the recognition of promises to give to be recognized as revenues in the period such promises are received. Contributions are classified based on the existence or absence of donor imposed restrictions and, as such, are recorded as increases in unrestricted funds, temporarily restricted funds, or permanently restricted funds.

SFAS No. 117, *Financial Statements of Not-for-Profit Organizations* establishes reporting standards for general-purpose external financial statements of not-for-profit organizations. It requires that amounts for each of these classes of funds, unrestricted, temporarily restricted, and permanently restricted, be displayed in a statement of financial position and that changes in those classes of funds be displayed in a statement of revenues and expenses. It also requires the presentation of a statement of cash flows.

INVESTMENT IN AFFILIATE

During 1994, the Legion in conjunction with approximately 80 other organizations created a nonprofit corporation known as The Citizens Flag Alliance, Inc. (CFA, Inc.) for the purpose of aiding in the

campaign to secure a constitutional amendment empowering the Congress and the States to enact legislation to protect the Flag of the United States of America from physical desecration.

\$3,000,000 in the program during 1995 and 1994, respectively, and CFA, Inc. recognized a (deficiency) of revenue over expenses of \$4,197,797 during 1995 and, accordingly, the Legion's investment in the affiliate has been reduced by this amount, and a corresponding charge has been reflected in other restricted funds.

To support these efforts, the Legion invested \$3,377,000 and

INVESTMENTS

The cost and market value of investments are as follows:

	1995	
	Cost	Market Value
December 31		
Segregated for Designated Fund		
U. S. Government obligations	\$12,307,669	\$12,652,068
Accrued interest—restricted	135,019	135,019
Money market accounts	524,644	524,644
	12,967,332	13,311,731
Segregated for Wash., D.C. building		
U. S. Government obligations	810,477	821,550
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund	893,316	904,949
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund	22,692,614	26,496,184
Other		
U. S. Government obligations	10,198,488	10,261,450
Money market accounts	4,462,446	4,462,446
Certificates of deposit	1,074,551	1,074,551
Mutual funds	548,234	557,410
	16,283,719	16,355,857
Investment in affiliate	197,917	197,917 *
Total investments	\$53,845,375	\$58,088,188

*Book value, market value not determined

OPERATING LEASES

The Legion and HPC lease facilities, computer equipment, copiers, and cash registers under operating leases. Total rental expense was \$825,138 in 1995.

At December 31, 1995, the future minimum annual rental payments required under operating leases are as follows:

December 31	
1996\$720,763
1997531,797
1998309,130
1999300,962
2000300,960

In addition, the Legion has a lease with the State of Indiana for rental of the National Headquarters building in Indianapolis through November, 1997. According to the terms of the lease, in lieu of rental payments the Legion is required to maintain the interior of the building, as well as provide adequate insurance on the building. The cost of maintenance approximated \$333,000 in 1995. Insurance coverage is included in the Legion's general insurance policy.

RESTRICTED AND RESERVE FUNDS

Receipts which are restricted by the donor are credited to the appropriate restricted fund, against which all expenditures for the related project or program are charged. Periodically, the Legion may add to restricted funds through allocations from unappropriated funds for specific future purposes and projects.

The Restricted Fund, a designated fund, is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund, as well as principal, can be expended only on the recommendation of the National Finance Commission and a two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee at two successive meetings. It is the policy of The American Legion to transfer 10% of the prior year's defined net income to the Restricted Fund. There were no transfers in 1995 to

the Restricted Fund due to net losses.

The Reserve Fund, a designated fund, also is restricted as to use by action of the National Finance Commission and National Executive Committee. Earnings of the Fund may be used for the general operations of the Legion, but the principal can be expended only: (a) By action of the Legion at its national convention, or (b) By two-thirds affirmative vote of the National Executive Committee in two successive meetings not less than sixty days apart.

OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION FUND

The earnings of the Overseas Graves Decoration Fund are being used to honor, preserve and decorate the graves of those who served in the United States armed forces who are buried overseas. The Fund is to continue at the will of the National Convention of the Legion or the National Executive Committee. The Fund's trust agreement may be amended, changed or succeeded at the will of the National Executive Committee, provided that the purpose for which the Fund was created is retained.

PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE MEMBERSHIP

In October, 1974, the National Executive Committee approved the establishment of a life membership plan available to any member of a participating Department. In accordance with the plan, the assets of the Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund are segregated in a trust account from which funds equal to the annual dues of life members are withdrawn for current operations each year. The trust agreement provides that the Legion has the right to withdraw part or all of the assets of the trust account and to modify or terminate the trust agreement at its discretion.

INVESTMENTS IN
OVERSEAS GRAVES DECORATION FUND
AND PAID-UP-FOR-LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The cost and market value of investments in the these funds are as follows:

December 31	1995 Cost	1995 Market Value
Overseas Graves Decoration Fund		
U. S. Government obligations	\$ 893,316	\$ 904,949
Paid-Up-For-Life Membership Fund		
U. S. Government obligations	4,854,481	5,072,384
Money market accounts	3,278,479	3,278,479
Common and preferred stocks	8,637,130	12,027,764
Nongovernment obligations	5,922,524	6,117,557
	<u>22,692,614</u>	<u>26,496,184</u>
Total investments	<u>\$23,585,930</u>	<u>\$27,401,133</u>

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation (the Endowment Fund) was incorporated in 1925 as a not-for-profit corporation with perpetual existence to act as trustee for the American Legion Endowment Fund, which was created to provide permanent funding for rehabilitation of American veterans and assistance to orphans of veterans. In August, 1946, the Legion transferred securities having a market value of \$2,001,000 to the Endowment Fund. The assets transferred have been held segregated by the Endowment Fund and the principal related to the 1946 transfer, which had a market value of \$2,172,553 at December 31, 1995, may be withdrawn by the Legion, if needed, for rehabilitation of veterans or assistance to orphans of veterans.

Income earned on the investments of the Endowment Fund, net of administrative expenses, is payable to the Legion to support its programs for the above-mentioned purposes. Income from the Endowment Fund amounted to \$550,057 in 1995.

LIFE INSURANCE PLAN

In connection with The American Legion's Life Insurance Plan, the Legion had created a Trust to which the First National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri, as Trustee, held legal title. During October, 1992, the National Executive Committee approved a resolution to terminate the Life Insurance Trust. This dissolution occurred during April, 1993. On the date of dissolution, funds remaining in the Plan totalling \$4,285,984 were transferred to a non-trust sub-account (The American Legion Life Insurance Plan) under control of the Legion for the use of youth programs. The American Legion Life Insurance Plan is included with the restricted funds in the accompanying financial statements. The trust funds, prior to the dissolution, were available for the following purposes:

- To increase the Trust fund.
- To reduce or pay in full the life insurance premiums thereafter due from participants.
- To provide additional life insurance benefits for the participants.
- To make refunds to the participants.
- To make distributions to the Legion in support of its activities and programs serving the interest of the Legion and its members, provided that such distributions are not disapproved in writing by a majority of the participants.

Subsequent to the dissolution of the Trust, the funds of The American Legion Life Insurance Plan are used primarily for youth programs. The Legion's National Executive Committee has approved partial funding of the oratorical contest, Boys' Nation, American Legion Baseball, and other programs of the Legion. At December 31, 1995, \$1,246,308 in funds had been approved for use in designated programs during 1996.

PENSION PLAN

The funded status of the pension plan at the end of the year was:

Actuarial present value of plan benefits	
Vested	\$ (16,407,189)
Nonvested	(568,918)

Accumulated benefit obligation

\$ (16,976,107)

Projected benefit obligation

\$ (18,617,483)

Plans assets at fair value, primarily listed stocks, bonds, and U. S. securities

33,645,015

Excess of plan assets over

15,027,532

projected benefit obligation

(7,504,687)

Unrecognized net gain

1,221,331

Prior service cost not yet recognized in net periodic pension cost

(1,678,209)

Unrecognized net asset at end of year

\$ 7,065,967

Prepaid pension expense

\$ (512,856)

Net pension income included the following components:

Service cost—benefits earned during the year \$ 506,979

Interest cost on projected benefit obligation 1,265,592

Actual return on assets (7,037,845)

Net amortization and deferral 4,752,418

Net pension income \$ (512,856)

The discount rate and rate of increase in future compensation levels used in determining the actuarial present value of the projected benefit obligation were 8.75 and 3%, respectively. The assumed rate of return on plan assets was 7 percent.

LONG-TERM DEBT AND LINE OF CREDIT

Long-term debt consists of the following:

Note payable—bank, payable \$4,167 monthly plus interest at prime plus 1.20%, 9.95% at December 31, 1995 \$193,921

Note payable—GMC, \$329 payable monthly,

includes interest at 13.46% 4,611

Obligations under capital leases 383,488

\$582,020

Maturities of long-term debt are as follows:

Years Ending December 31

1996 \$ 58,034

1997 359,770

1998 120,307

1999 43,909

HPC also had available a line of credit with a bank amounting to \$250,000. Borrowings against this line amounted to \$107,231 at December 31, 1995. Interest on the borrowings under the line is at the bank's "Prime Rate," plus 1.20% (9.95% at December 31, 1995). The line is available for use to July 1, 1996, on or prior to which the Bank will review the line of credit and consider an extension for a subsequent period.

The note payable-bank and line of credit are secured by substantially all assets of HPC. Also, \$188,000 of notes are guaranteed by the Legion.

CAPITAL LEASES

December 31, 1995
Lease payable—IBM Credit Corporation, payable in 4 annual payments of \$335,347 for first three years and \$75,006 for final year, including interest at 6.689%
Other

\$380,069
3,419

The present value of future minimum capital lease payments follows:

Years Ending December 31	The American Legion	HPC
1996	\$335,347	\$3,419
1997	75,006	
1998	410,353	3,419
Net minimum lease payments	(30,284)	
Interest included in lease payments		
Present value of future minimum lease payments	\$380,069	\$3,419

Leased assets are shown below:

Years Ending December 31	The American Legion	HPC
Computer equipment	\$1,006,050	\$15,000
Accumulated amortization	(335,350)	(12,000)
	\$ 670,700	\$ 3,000

Amortization of assets held under capital leases is included with depreciation expense.

INCOME TAXES

No income tax expense was recorded in 1995.

The following is a reconciliation of income taxes at the federal statutory rate to actual income tax recorded by HPC.
December 31, 1995

Federal statutory income tax at 34%	\$ (2,149)
Nondeductible expenses	1,009
Graduated tax rates	1,201
Decrease in valuation allowance	(61)
Actual tax expense	\$ 0

FUNDS RELEASED FROM RESTRICTION

Funds released from temporarily restricted net assets during 1995 were as follows:

Relief Programs	\$111,175
Overseas Graves Decoration	48,725
Baseball Programs	296,465
Korean War Memorial	7,501
Boys Nation	500
	<u>\$464,366</u>

LITIGATION

The Legion is currently involved in and/or has been mentioned as a defendant or co-defendant in several legal actions. It is the opinion of the National Judge Advocate that these claims are without merit and any ultimate liability of the Legion with respect to these actions will not materially affect the financial position of the Legion.

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

The following represents a functional breakdown of the American Legion National Headquarter's expenses by program and supporting services.

December 31, 1995	
Program Services	\$34,085,922
Veterans Affairs	1,948,323
Children and Youth Activities	4,528,945
Flag Education and Legislation	1,817,812
Direct Response Advertising and Marketing	
Supporting Services	14,695,547
Management and General	
Total expenses	<u>\$57,076,549</u>

TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes or periods:

December 31, 1995	
Veterans Affairs	
Disaster relief program activities	\$ 645,051
Overseas Graves Decoration fund activities	965,287
Children and Youth Program activities	178,218
	<u>\$1,788,556</u>

THE AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

RECONCILIATION OF AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS TO INTERNAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Year Ended December 31	1995
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses— Internal Financial Statements	
Excess of expenses over revenue for certain designated and restricted funds not included in internal financials	\$4,021,555
Excess of revenue over expenses for certain appropriated funds not included in internal financials	(3,450,161)
	<u>148,000</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses— Audited Financial Statements	<u>\$719,394</u>

AMERICAN LEGION ENDOWMENT FUND CORPORATION

Foreseeing the necessity of a recurring income source for funding its war veterans' rehabilitation and child welfare programs, The American Legion conducted a national campaign in 1925 which raised approximately \$5 million for this purpose. The funds contributed were entrusted to the custody of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation.

The Corporation was incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware in 1925 and a trust agreement between The American Legion and the Corporation was signed in accordance with which the funds are administered by the Corporation with the annual net investment income being paid to The American Legion for use in the two programs involved.

The operations and financial condition of The American Legion Endowment Fund Corporation for each of the last five years are summarized below (taken from the annual audit reports prepared by Geo. S. Olive & Co. LLC, Indianapolis, Ind.).

December 31	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991
Total assets	\$7,846,843	\$7,846,801	\$7,867,425	\$7,802,473	\$7,714,042
Investments at cost	\$7,675,855	\$7,644,325	\$7,665,491	\$7,595,545	\$7,590,564
Interest income	\$575,688	\$550,155	\$568,759	\$652,342	\$710,453
Expenses	79,150	46,472	26,594	32,304	33,103
Excess income over expense	\$496,538	\$503,683	\$542,165	\$620,038	\$677,350
Funds transferred to The American Legion	\$550,057	\$537,035	\$544,071	\$547,467	\$595,268
Average yield on book value of investments	7.42%	7.85%	7.37%	7.78%	7.58%

The American Legion Department of Florida Welcomes You in 1997



Mark Englert

79th National Convention
August 29 - September 4
Orlando, Florida



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


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AMERICAN LEGION



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